

S Africans split on race policy

The ruling Nationalist Party in South Africa has split over racial policies. Extreme right-wingers oppose constitutional policies of Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, which would involve some sharing of power with Coloured (mixed race) and Indian South Africans. A party caucus meeting yesterday ended with 22 MPs voting against a motion of confidence in Mr Botha. Page 6

Hoover losses rise to £30.97m

Hoover, the domestic appliance manufacturer, yesterday reported a record £30.97m loss for 1981 and partly blamed redundancy and closure costs of £17.24m. Recession and imports of cheap appliances from Italy and Eastern Europe were also blamed. Page 13

Broadway comes to London



Costume designs and rehearsal pictures from the National Theatre's production of "Guys and Dolls" the theatre's first Broadway musical are featured in tomorrow's *Evening Standard*. The 16-page guide will also contain the second part of a survey of London's best fringe theatres.

Union rejects 'Times' notices

A mass meeting of Times Newspapers clerical workers voted to ignore the dismissal notices sent to 210 members and rejected the company's request for voluntary redundancy terms. Page 2

Applause for Jaruzelski

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish military leader, defended economic reforms, attacked Western sanctions and sought to justify martial law at the opening of the first full meeting of the 200-member central committee, in Warsaw. His 68-page speech received prolonged applause. Page 6

Unions unite to fight Tebbit

Union leaders formally adopted yesterday the Labour movement's eight-point plan of opposition to Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill which demands that any organization accepting state aid for secret ballots risks expulsion from the TUC. Page 3



Muslims hijack jet at Beirut

Shia Muslim gunmen hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner on the tarmac at Beirut airport yesterday and last night were holding 100 passengers at gunpoint, demanding that the aircraft fly to Tehran. Back page

Yorkshire wrath

Arthur Connell, acting chairman of Yorkshire County Cricket Club's general committee, said that the leakage of a confidential recommendation to end Geoffrey Boycott's contract could only create further problems. Page 18

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Russians scour world for grain to avert catastrophe

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Feb 24

The announcement today by the United States Agricultural Department that the Russians have bought an additional 450,000 tonnes of maize reinforces the belief by Western analysts that following this year's disastrous harvest, Soviet grain imports will be the largest since the Soviet state was founded.

American officials now expect the Russians to buy some 42 million tonnes of grain to try to overcome the catastrophic effect on Soviet food production of the third poor harvest in a row. For the first time, the Russians have not put any figure for this year's total, suggesting that it is below the Western estimate of 170 million tonnes, and may be some 70 million tonnes short of the planned target of 236 million.

The total cost of Soviet grain sales is put at around £7,000m (about £3,900m), which will put a severe strain on the country's hard currency reserves.

Western firms report that dozens of contracts for consumer goods, machinery and technology are being cancelled. Soviet food aid to its allies in Indo-China has been cut back, the Russians are finding it hard to spare any money to sell Poland out of its difficulties, and Moscow has been selling huge quantities of oil and gold on world markets even at a time of slump in both commodities.

Nevertheless, the Russians are clearly determined not to allow the bad harvest to worsen an already poor food situation within the country. The Russians are trying not to rely on the United States for their grain purchases, although President Reagan has allowed them to buy up to 23 million tonnes. So far they have bought only 11,500,000 tonnes, and are instead actively negotiating to buy from other sources, principally Canada, Australia, the European Community and Argentina.

About half their total purchases are expected to be for animal feed and half will be wheat. Soviet grain reserves are a strict secret, but Western experts believe they must now be near depletion.

The Russians will also have to spend about \$2,000m to buy

14 pc mortgage rate likely next month

By Lorna Burke

Building society borrowers should see a 1 percentage point reduction in the cost of home loans after the announcement yesterday of a 1 point cut in bank base rates.

All the High Street banks reduced their base rates from 14 per cent to 13.5 per cent. National Westminster also cut its home loan rate by a 1 point to 14.5 per cent, making it the cheapest in the market.

But, on the Stock Exchange, investors were more concerned with Mrs Thatcher's warning against Budget optimism, so the *Financial Times* index closed 6.4 points down at 552.6.

The Building Societies Association refused to speculate on whether the mortgage rate might also fall. But the chairman, Mr Alan Cummings, made his views plain some weeks ago when he spoke of a 1 percentage point reduction in the near future.

Building society rates are now well out of line with others and there is plenty of room for a cut without damaging the societies' competitive position. The BSA council meets again on Friday March 12, and it seems a near certainty that a reduction will be announced.

The mortgage rate is likely to come down from 15 per cent to 14 per cent though it is not clear where the investment rate, currently 9.75 per cent, will settle. Some societies would like to see it at 9.0 per cent, but others argue that since most societies are now paying one point over the recommended share rate of "extra interest" short notice accounts, the basic rate should be cut to around 8.5 per cent.

The High Street banks are now paying only 71 per cent for money on 7-day deposit. If the societies reduced their ordinary share rate to 8.5 per cent, paying 9.5 per cent on before-tax equivalent on building society investments of 13.5 per cent is 2.5 points more than the 11 per cent offered by the banks.

Competition for personal savers' cash is likely to remain fierce, with Leicester Building Society announcing yesterday the first major link-up with a bank, Citibank Savings, to offer building society customers current account and loan facilities.

Later customers who keep a minimum of £100 in their account will be eligible for a "Leicestercard" which entitles them to discounts on a range of consumer goods. Abbey National, are known to be working on similar schemes. Halifax already has an arrangement with Barclays Bank.

Business News, page 13



Armed civilians helping the Army in San Vicente, El Salvador. President Reagan argues that, without more military aid, the ill be incapable of defeating the guerrillas.

US to increase military aid in Central America

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 24

President Reagan, proposing a \$350m (£192m) aid package with extensive trade and investment incentives for Caribbean and Central American countries, said today that the United States would do whatever was prudent and necessary to ensure peace in the area.

The President attacked Cuba as a subversive influence trying to impose Marxist-Leninist dictatorships in the region. He emphasized, nevertheless, that the United States would not follow Cuba's lead in attempting to solve human problems with brute force.

Instead, in a speech at the headquarters of the Organization of American States here, the President said he intended to send a package to Congress which would bolster the fight against subversion by improving the hard-pressed economies of the Caribbean Basin states, and strengthening their armed forces with increased military aid.

The President said that the centerpiece of his programme was to allow free access to the American market, without import restrictions, for almost all exports from the area for a period of 12 years. Textiles would be exempted because they were covered by other international agreements.

Both BBC and IB have taken part in discussions begun last May, by the Rbn Office on the feasibility of direct broadcasting by satellite (known as DBS).

The BBC's interest in taking part in direct broadcasting was to provide a channel for repeat programmes, and also for a subscription service which it believes would generate enough revenue from the viewing public to cover the costs of both channels.

It also pressed the Government to bring in legislation, as did several electronics companies, to put up the money to develop and launch a British satellite.

By contrast, IBA's representatives gave Home Office officials the impression that, while interested in principle, they were for the present pre-occupied with plans for the introduction of the fourth television channel in November, and of breakfast television in May, 1983.

Senior figures within independent television admitted yesterday they may have been slow off the mark.

The IBA said yesterday it had put forward three proposals for a pan-European service, with a number of member countries of the European Broadcasting Union contributing and receiving a subscription service or a best of

Whitelaw admits 'mistakes' at Scrubs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said yesterday that mistakes were made during and after the quelling by prison officers of a protest at Wormwood Scrubs Prison, which resulted in injuries to 74 people.

He assured MPs: "The Director General (Mr Dennis Trevelyan) has taken action to ensure that the lessons which have been learnt are applied at Wormwood Scrubs and throughout the prison service."

The clash, on August 31, 1979, involved officers trained and equipped for so-called Multi tactics (minimum use of force tactical intervention).

The report of an official inquiry into the incident published yesterday strongly criticized management in the prison, the Board of Visitors (appointed as a public watchdog) and the Prison Officers' Association.

In a statement published with the report, the Home Office says that after the clash there was a "punitive attitude towards prisoners on the part of the local branch of the Prison Officers' Association."

Though a police investigation found no evidence to prove that any report was deliberately misleading and prepared with the intention of perverting the course of justice, "incorrect statements were made and were not subsequently corrected."

"This is wholly unacceptable both as a matter of public accountability and management responsibility."

The report by Mr Keith Gibson, South-east regional director of prisons, says some prisoners had improvised weapons either from cell furniture or landing railings.

There has recently been intermittent tension at the prison, described as a penal institution, and a local government, Mr John McCarthy, culminating in five prisoners barricading themselves in a cell for a siege which ended last night. On Monday 90 prisoners demonstrated in support of them in the exercise yard. The prison was said to be calm last night.

The report tells how tension at the prison increased before the clash in 1979 as a result of a power struggle between four groups of prisoners: the IRA men, black prisoners and sex offenders, who, with other prisoners, banded together for protection.

Incidents involving the gangs, including an attack on a black prisoner, resulted in some being moved out. A power vacuum resulted which the IRA, black prisoners and the rest of the gangs sought to fill.

Mr Sidney Powell, secretary of the governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said the 60 injuries to prisoners in seven minutes had resulted from the wing lay-out which prevented the Multi teams operating in the way they were trained to.

"Minimum force is what you judge it to be at the time. It is a difficult judgment when you are facing nearly 200 murderers armed with iron bars. I had every sympathy with the staff that night."

Scandal of a Soviet hat

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Feb 24

Three youths are about to go on trial near Moscow for a crime that has horrified Russians: they skinned alive a stolen St Bernard dog and sold the fur to make hats for the black market.

Their cruelty has provoked an outcry among Russians, who are sentimental about animals and particularly about dogs. One of the Soviet Union's most distinguished artists, Sergei Obraztsov, the 80-year-old founder and director of the famous Moscow Puppet Theatre, today wrote to a newspaper denouncing this "crime against human conscience" and calling for tough measures against what has apparently become a common practice.

He said more and more people were buying stolen dogs, illegally sold at pet markets for as little as 10 roubles (£7.70), skinning them alive in the mistaken belief that the fur was better preserved when taken from a live animal, and selling the hides for up to 150 roubles each. When asked by prospective buyers what kind of fur it is, they joke that it comes from Russia.

Dogskin hats have become quite fashionable in recent years. The reason is that the Soviet Union, one of the world's largest producers of fur, now sells so much abroad, especially for hard currency, that it is increasingly difficult to find fox, mink, beaver and other good furs in Russian shops.

Cashing in on the unsatisfied demand, the state has raised prices so much that a fur hat is now a luxury. A fur hat could easily be obtained in Stalin's day but now women wear fur or artificial fibre hats and men have to make do with felt, rabbit or leather caps. The black market in furs is thriving.

The case of the three youths, one a member of the Komsomol, the Communist youth organization, has aroused particular concern because of their callous cruelty, which the authorities fear is becoming increasingly prevalent among criminal and materialistic youth. The press has reported disturbing instances of cruelty to animals, including the case of drunken youths who stabbed two kangaroos to death in the Moscow zoo and poached the birds in a park, shooting and barbecuing protected species in nature reserves.

Dogs are an especially emotive subject as more and more Russians, especially pensioners, now keep them. For the past year the press has run an anti-dog campaign, pointing to the cost of the meat they eat, and an attempt was made last summer to introduce a prohibitive annual dog tax, to take effect from January, of up to 200 roubles for those people from keeping dogs. So great was the outcry, however, that a powerful lobby managed to find legal loopholes in the draft Bill and it has now been abandoned.

BBC may get both 'space' channels

By Julian Havilland, Political Editor

Plans for a British satellite which would provide two extra television channels for British viewers within five years are expected to be announced next week by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority suspects that Mr Whitelaw has decided to allow both channels to the BBC.

A campaign to persuade him to change his mind was begun with a letter published in *The Times* yesterday from Lord Aylestone, a former chairman of the IBA, who said the allocation of the channels required further public debate.

Ministers were surprised yesterday by the eleven-hour challenge to their plans.

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Lady Simey accuses police of vengeance

By Richard Evans

The chairman of Merseyside police authority told MPs yesterday she was satisfied that the police exacted vengeance on people who made official complaints.

Lady Simey, aged 76, gave her own recent experience of the police complaints procedure to the Home Affairs select committee to support her allegations.

"About a year ago I put in a complaint myself. I hasten to say not on Merseyside, but elsewhere. The officer involved took vengeance on a member of my household, which I could tell you about in private but would not want to detail in public."

Lady Simey, a member of the board of governors at Bramshill Police College, told the committee chairman, Sir John Eden, Conservative MP for Bournemouth, West, that from her experience as a councillor in Torquay, she could "produce lists from solicitors of cases of this kind."

Afterwards, Lady Simey would not disclose the name of the force or the officer involved in her complaint.

Last night Police Federation Merseyside chairman, P.C. Fred Jones, said he was very upset over the claims. "We know that the North Wales police tried on at least two occasions to get Lady Simey to a disciplinary hearing but she did not turn up."

"If she had evidence that will show police improperly then it is her duty to place it before the proper authority and call for an investigation."

He added: "I personally met the police committee and Lady Simey only a few months ago and I asked her to produce hard evidence. But they could not produce a single thing—just general allegations."

The select committee, which is inquiring into the police complaints procedure, was told Lady Simey that her authority believed it was the absence of effective redress against the police that provoked the protests last July.

Lady Simey was giving evidence on behalf of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities which is advocating the establishment of a local ombudsman and a central body to examine serious complaints.

The association's evidence was in stark contrast to that presented by the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils.

Mr Harry Purck, chairman of the police committee of the Association of County Councils said many police authorities covered areas where there was no outcry against the police.

Dis, page 16

Ulster to change law on homosexuals

By Nicholas Timmins

The law on homosexuality in Northern Ireland is to be brought into line with that of the rest of the United Kingdom, allowing homosexual acts in private between two consenting males aged over 21.

The proposed change, announced yesterday by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has been forced on the Government by a decision of the European Court of Human Rights. It ruled that the present law was in breach of Article 8 of the European Convention, which provides for respect for private and family life.

The decision has come in the wake of the homosexual "scandal" at the Kinross Boys' Home, and at other boys' homes in Belfast.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Veteran of Aslef gets new post

Mr Bill Ronsley, a former president and veteran Communist member of the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen is leaving to become the union's full-time regional organizer of the North-east. (Our Labour Staff writes).

Mr Ronsley was president for seven years until he was voted out by the executive in the annual election at the start of the Aslef campaign of one-day strikes. He was replaced by Mr Derrick Fullick, a left-winger who represents South-east regional workers.

Mr Ronsley joined the executive in 1961 when Mr Raymond Buckton, the present general secretary, left to become a full-time official.

There are now two vacancies on the executive, for Mr Ross Goff, who won the district secretary's job for Wales and the South-west, has not been replaced. Elections are expected shortly.

GLC move on Round House

London's troubled Round House arts venue is likely to receive an urgent advance on next year's local authority grants to enable it to keep open, Mr Tony Banks, the chairman of the Greater London Council's arts committee, said yesterday. (David Hewson writes.)

Mr Banks said that the GLC, which gave the Round House £20,000 last year, is talking to the Arts Council about a grants advance. "It was not until a representative of the Round House came here last week that we realized the seriousness of the problem", he added.

Sabotage fears over court power

The Magistrates' Association expressed concern yesterday that the Government might "sabotage" new powers granted to juvenile courts under the Criminal Justice Bill to deal with persistent offenders using the excuse of lack of funds.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the association, said: "There is concern that there is a faction in the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security which is against the provisions of the Bill. The new powers would enable courts to make a residential care order without being overruled by the local authority or a parent."

Hotels act after Laker collapse

Spanish hotels are to tighten terms of payment for British package tour operators after the collapse of Laker Airways (Ronald Pullen writes). The Spanish Hotels Association is urging its members to cut to a minimum the time British groups have had in the past to pay their bills.

When the two Laker tour companies, Laker Air Travel and Arrowmount, were put into the hands of the receiver, Spanish hotels found themselves with £1.3m of unpaid bills, which have now been paid.

Looting picture caught burglar

A black looter photographed carrying off a stolen television set in last summer's Brixton riots was arrested two days after the picture appeared in a national newspaper, Inner London Crown Court was told yesterday. A police officer recognized the youth he was arresting for a burglary as George Grey from the photograph.

Grey, aged 19, of King's Avenue, Clapham, admitted charges of theft and burglary. He was put on probation for two years.

Heathrow strike rebuff

British Airways baggage handlers working in terminal three at Heathrow airport, London, yesterday refused to join their colleagues in the other two main terminals who have been on strike for two weeks. (David Felton, Labour Reporter, writes.)

Erna Low offer

People booked with Erna Low Travel, the skiing tour operator which went into voluntary liquidation on Tuesday, will receive identical holidays to those booked at the same price under an agreement reached with Travel Point Ltd by the Association of British Travel Agents. "Other clients will receive a full refund or the offer of an alternative holiday", the association said.

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Labour looks at policy on renationalization

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The foundation of Labour Party policy on renationalization and compensation should be shrouded out at four important meetings next month, it was decided yesterday.

A public clash over the policy between Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Michael Foot last November led to the removal of Mr Benn from the Shadow Cabinet after he had defied the shadow cabinet line that compensation would be limited to ensure that no private speculative gain was made at the public expense.

But Labour's national executive yesterday witnessed Mr Foot seconding a Benn proposal that the executive's home policy committee should examine the options at its next meeting.

It was pointed out that the TUC Labour Liaison committee decided on Tuesday to receive a paper, drawn up jointly by both the TUC and the Labour Party, on the policy alternatives. And the Labour research department will present a separate paper to the home policy committee.

What was not stated was the TUC's economic committee is considering yet another paper, from the TUC's research department, and that the TUC-Labour Liaison committee will "knock it all together" before Labour's next meeting again at the end of next month.

Meanwhile, unions voted yesterday mustered behind Mr Foot on the national executive to ensure that Mr Benjamin Ford, the MP for Bradford, North, receives a second chance to be re-elected as party candidate for the next election.

The national executive's organization committee had recommended that Mr Wall should be endorsed.

An executive inquiry had agreed that the party in Bradford, North, had failed to follow

the rules; inadequate notice was given of the selection meeting, the meeting hall, with a discotheque playing above and speeches interrupted by a club steward tapping beer barrels, was unsuitable, and that there were doubts over the credentials of some delegates.

Mr Foot, speaking in a "testy" debate on the matter, said that it would be silly to reject the executive's own inquiry report.

But Mr Benn argued that it was a "highly-prized right" of constituents to pick their representatives, and that no objections had been made at the time of the meeting either to the timing or the place.

Mr Ford, commenting on the executive's decision on Mr Wall's selection, said last night: "I feel no sense of election or triumph; I am merely sorry that the Labour Party has come to this pass."

□ The Transport and General Workers' Union is set to elect as its chairman a key supporter of Mr Wedgwood Benn in the Labour Party's internal struggle, Routledge, Labour Editor, writes.

The TGWU executive is expected next week to select Mr Walter Greenleale, a Hull dockworker, in succession to Mr Richard Humberston, who is retiring. His selection will be seen as a snub to the main candidate, Mr Brian Nicholson, leader of London's dock workers.

□ Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Leader, yesterday emphasized the importance he attaches to drawing up a regional policy, including Scottish devolution, by strengthening his front bench regional affairs team. (Philip Webster, Political Reporter, writes.)

Mr Tony Hendry, Under Secretary for Northern Ireland in the previous Labour administration, and MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, has been appointed to assist Mr John Prescott, the chief regional affairs spokesman.

management and staff of the prison that its critical facilities had been blunted. Not until October did it start to review what had happened.

Until then, no attempt had been made to visit the injured prisoners, nor had any protest been made about either the exclusion from the wing of specialist officers or the subsequent restrictions in D wing.

The Home Office said that after the clash the staff imposed an unnecessarily restrictive regime under which all normal activities were seriously curtailed or cancelled. Prisoners in D wing were refused visits and chaplains, probation officers, and specialist staff, including psychologists, were refused access to them.

The extreme measures "reinforced the suspicion that the intention was to prevent the prisoners communicating complaints about the handling of the incident and the treatment they had received at the hands of staff."

A senior psychologist, at a meeting of heads of departments chaired by the governor on September 12, asked about the apparent discrepancy between the number of injured prisoners initially reported by

the media and the much higher figure to be found in the "reporting sick register".

In the psychologist's words, "there was a bit of an uproar".

The next day the psychology department was told that the relaxation governing the entry of specialists into D wing did not apply to them, and the local branch of the Prison Officers' Association began industrial action against the "duties".

psychologists. Mr Gibson said: "This took the form of total non-cooperation with the psychologists throughout the establishment with the result that psychologists had such limited contacts with prisoners that they were unable to perform their normal, established duties."

In D wing 163 prisoners had been sentenced for murder or some other act of homicide and a further 35 for other crimes of violence. The protest in the wing began when prisoners refused to return to their cells after their evening meal.

The Home Office said the weaknesses shown in the action to regain control of D wing were largely the result of lack of preparation by local management and lack of training by prison officers in Mufti

Jay seeks winter breakfast TV start

By Kenneth Gosling and Torin Douglas

Mr Peter Jay, chairman of TV-AM, the company appointed to run commercial television breakfast service, said last night that he was still hopeful that his company would be on the air by next winter, several months earlier than the date of May 1983, set by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

But he was not optimistic that there would be a successful outcome to the negotiations with Independent Television News over supplying a news service to TV-AM.

Mr Jay has always wanted to start the service as early as possible. Far from being detrimental to existing independent television it would, he has boasted, be to its advantage, beating the drum for the evening schedules.

That consideration becomes more important with the launch of Channel Four in November; but the BBC's decision, expected to be announced by the board of governors today, on its own breakfast television plans, and the recent boom in television advertising revenue makes an early start even more urgent.

Mr Jay now feels there is no reason to delay further and he is continuing to press for an earlier start, although the earliest practical date gets later and cannot now be set before next winter. Of his talks with the IBA, Mr Jay said: "I am always optimistic that sensible arguments get sensible responses."

Advertisers would welcome an early start and have expressed concern at an earlier launch by the BBC of its morning broadcasting. Mr Jay's revenue forecast for the first year is £15m but most advertising industry estimates of the likely figure well below that.

Agencies forecast that in the early years between 3 and 5 per cent of households would watch breakfast television.

Mr Norman Hare, the immensely erudite librarian to the Goldsmiths' Company, feels the nearest thing to a royal visit in all those centuries was the Prince Consort's in 1845 and, before that, of the Duke of Clarence and St Andrews in 1827.

The trial is the occasion at which a jury drawn from free-men of the Goldsmiths' Company passes judgment on the previous year's work of the Royal Mint, testing the size, weight and purity of a sampling of British coins to ensure that they fall within the "tolerances" or "variances" prescribed by law. The Pyx, the box in which the samples repose.

Today the jury is to test gold sovereigns, silver Maundy Money and cupro-nickel coins.

Diary, page 10

'Times' clerical staff reject dismissals

By Donald MacIntyre, Labour Correspondent

Clerical workers at The Times and The Sunday Times voted yesterday to reject both the company's re-opened offer to the terms of voluntary redundancy terms and the dismissal notices to 210 of their members.

A meeting attended by more than 600 of the 671 TNL clerical staff members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Compositors and Media Personnel endorsed, after two hours of debate, a resolution which also, in effect called on the management to resume negotiations with their representatives.

The decision came after a public offer on Tuesday by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the newspaper's proprietor, to withdraw the dismissal notices received by the 210 employees yesterday if enough volunteers came forward to replace them, on the more generous terms of voluntary redundancy.

The Natsopa chapel resolution rejected what it called "continued management attempts to resolve the current situation by rotating threats of dismissal with meaningless calls for voluntary redundancy."

It said that efforts by management to "bypass our elected officials will not be tolerated."

The chapel was "determined to resolve this matter by negotiation" but would not accept the dismissal of any of the chapel's 671 members. It also called on the management to honour its January offer of talks on a new house agreement to be concluded by the end of July.

The management reaffirmed last night that its offer of voluntary redundancy remained open. The company also appeared Mr Murdoch's assurance made on Tuesday that Natsopa, at national officer level, had made it clear that people applying for voluntary redundancy

would not have their union cards cancelled.

There was still confusion in the union on that point, however, after a circular was issued, with a little covering explanation by Mr O'Brien, general secretary of Natsopa, setting out all seven clauses of the union's rule 44, which governs voluntary redundancy.

Chapel officers argued last night that the circular helped to confirm the insistence expressed on the platform of yesterday's mass meeting that, under union rules, employees would forfeit their union membership if they took voluntary redundancy.

The company has suggested that more would have applied if the threat of losing union cards were lifted.

Mr Arthur Britten, corporate relations director of News International, last night reiterated that the company had been giving the most solemn assurances "that applicants for voluntary redundancy" in a mandatory situation "could apply without losing union membership."

Mr O'Brien was last night unimpressed by comment on the issue. The chapel officers had suggested earlier in the day that it would be up to the union's national executive to decide whether the rule could be waived. It does not have a scheduled meeting until next Wednesday.

The Natsopa chapel also voted for a two-week levy of chapel members to fund a dispute if the dismissed notices took effect. The first are due to run out in two weeks, although some run up to 12 weeks, depending on length of service. Senior members will pay a levy of £20 per week and juniors £10.

On the clerical chapel's reference to resuming negotiations, Mr Britten said last night: "The door is always open if the chaps come in with genuinely useful proposals."

The notion that married women work provide the luxuries of life given some backing by figures published yesterday in the Department of Employment Gazette.

The figures which cover two-parent families with children, show that in 1980 households with working wives spent on average 15 per cent more, £139.20 a week, compared with £120.

But they spent only 6 per cent extra on housing, fuel and food, and household goods. The biggest increases went on alcohol and tobacco (19 per cent) and clothes (72 per cent).

Services include entertainment, holidays, as well as more prosaic items such as postage and telephone.

The survey also shows that households with unemployed spouses spent two-thirds as much on other household goods. The chief sacrifices were transport and services.

Unemployed school leavers should bargain with employers to get work, armed with new government wage subsidies, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said last night.

Employers taking on 16- and 17-year-olds on pay of less than £40 a week can now claim a subsidy of £25.

Mr Tebbit told the Commons Select Committee on Employment yesterday: "I hope there will be youngsters who pick up the idea and go to employers and say, 'You can employ me for £25 a week, and I can get £40 a week which is a good bargain for both of us—can I work for you?'"

Challenged by Mr James Craig, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, that the scheme was aimed at establishing lower wage rates, Mr Tebbit said many young people priced themselves out of work.

"It is not always easy these days for a youngster of 16, perhaps not of the highest academic attainments and without specific training, to be able to earn from his employer the sort of wages which are currently very often being asked."

Mr Tebbit criticized a suggestion by Mr John Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle under Lyme, that the proposed £15 allowance for school leavers in his youth training package could increase muggings.

Mr Golding, committee chairman, said that young people in Birmingham had told him muggings were increasing due to young people's low incomes and debts.

He said people were antagonistic to the idea of benefits for young people being cut from £25 to £15 a week.

The Labour Party and union leaders have denounced Mr Tebbit's plan to cut the allowance from next year and withholds to appear on posters in all Northern Ireland schools with the slogan "Join Our World Cup Squad—Don't Smoke."

Scrubs clash charges ruled out

By Ian Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Sixty prisoners and 14 prison officers were injured in seven minutes on the officers' stormed D wing in Wormwood Scrubs to all a protest, an official report of an inquiry into the clash said yesterday.

The inquiry, by Mr Keith Gibson, the east regional director, found prima facie evidence of criminal assault on prisoners. But after a full investigation no prisoners could have been disciplined, he has been charged and further inquiry by the prison department is planned.

An initiative report that no prisoners were injured was later amended to the effect that five had been admitted to the prison hospital. It was not until September 25, nearly a month after the clash, that any mention was made of the other prisoners, at that time said to number 33, who had been injured.

"This tarred" Mr Gibson says, "madmore believable the allegations of brutality and a deliberate over-kill which by then were appearing in the press."

The Home Office, in a statement published with his report, said there is little prospect that a full inquiry would lead to any definite conclusions that the "full and extensive police investigations."

The intention was by officers to use the techniques of riot control (minimum use of force tactical intervention).

"No disciplinary proceedings can be brought where it is not possible to assign responsibility to an individual officer," the report said.

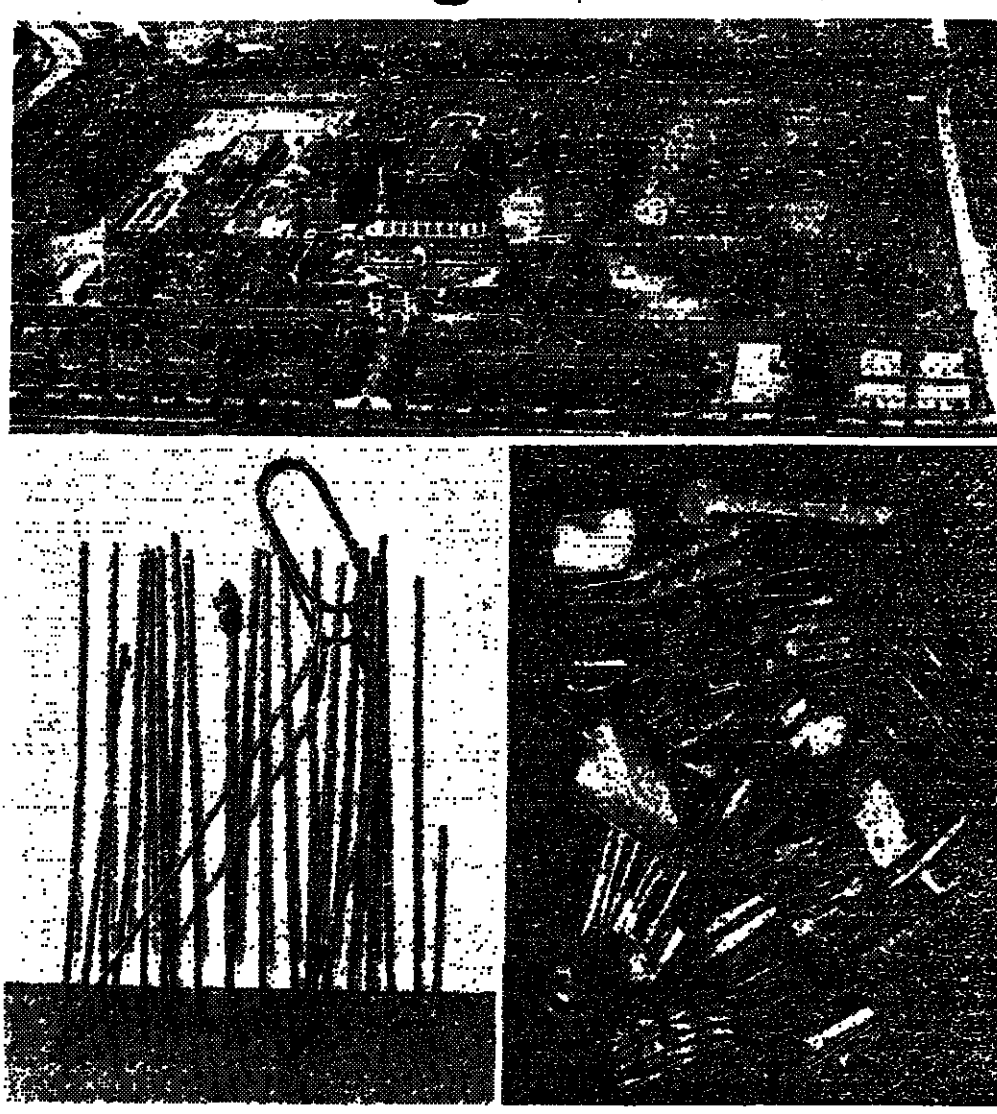
Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has said that "because of the difficulties of identification and the absence of independent corroboration, there is insufficient evidence to bring prosecution for assault on prison inmates by any prison officer."

But the Home Office said: "Incorrect statements were made and are not subsequently corrected. This is wholly unacceptable both as a matter of public accountability and management responsibility."

The Home Office criticized Mr Norman Hare, then the prison governor, for allowing staff to go to the immediately after the clash and before any debriefing could take place. As a result, he was unable to give a complete accurate account.

His initial report to the department's regional office, headquarters public relations branch and Board of Visitors (which appointed as a public watchdog) were incomplete and misleading, the statement said.

Mr Gibson in his report, said the box had become so closely defended with the



Wormwood Scrubs and the weapons of the clash: (below, left) bars torn from a landing and (right) items found in the cells.

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Trial of the Pyx-700 years on

By Tony Samstag

The Trial of the Pyx, one of those archaic and arcane rituals like the swan-dipping that come round again each year to the astonishment of almost everybody, celebrates its 700th anniversary today.

The ceremony at Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London is special on several counts. Not only does it observe the 700th anniversary of issuing of the earliest known writ for the trial, by Edward I in 1282, the presence of the Queen will also mark the first attendance at the trial by a reigning monarch since James I in 1611.

Miss Susan Hare, the immensely erudite librarian to the Goldsmiths' Company, feels the nearest thing to a royal visit in all those centuries was the Prince Consort's in 1845 and, before that, of the Duke of Clarence and St Andrews in 1827.

The trial is the occasion at which a jury drawn from free-men of the Goldsmiths' Company passes judgment on the previous year's work of the Royal Mint, testing the size, weight and purity of a sampling of British coins to ensure that they fall within the "tolerances" or "variances" prescribed by law. The Pyx, the box in which the samples repose.

Today the jury is to test gold sovereigns, silver Maundy Money and cupro-nickel coins.

Diary, page 10

Haughey faces challenge

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, leader of the Irish Republic's Fianna Fail Party, will be fighting his political survival today at the first meeting of the parliamentary party since last week's inconclusive general election.

His leadership has been under threat since the results were known, with manoeuvres by his many enemies, to oust him even though he is widely favoured as leader of the largest party in the Dail, to return to power as head of the minority government next month.

Mr Desmond O'Malley, aged 43, a former cabinet minister is expected to challenge Mr Haughey for the leadership when the 31 Fianna Fail MPs meet at Leinster House.

Leading backbench opponents of Mr Haughey, leader of the party since a backbench revolt led to Mr Jack Lynch retiring in 1979, are understood to have approached the three main contenders for the leadership, urging them to put forward a single candidate. Mr George Colley, the present deputy leader, who has twice been defeated for the leadership, and Dr Martin O'Donoghue, the party's economic spokesman, have apparently agreed to stand aside in favour of Mr O'Malley, a former Minister of Industry.

Organizers of the move to oust Mr Haughey believe they have a majority in favour of Mr O'Malley, who topped the poll in the general election in his Limerick East constituency.

But Mr Haughey is a tough fighter and perhaps more importantly a survivor. After the election he was supremely confident that he would be the next Prime Minister. He described today's meeting as a "pure formality," and said that reports that he was considering resigning the leadership were "absolute nonsense."

He has been busy attempting to beat any possible threat by holding meetings at Leinster House with key supporters and meeting new deputies who backing he will need if he is to remain the leadership.

□ A warning that a new murder campaign is being planned by the Provisional IRA and Irish National Liberation Army terrorist groups was given by the RUC in Belfast yesterday (our Belfast Correspondent writes).

□ The Northern Ireland World Cup soccer squad is to take up the anti-smoking cause—following the example of Scotland (our Health Services Correspondent writes). The 22 players, none of whom smoke, will be paid £12,000 by four health organizations and charities to appear on posters in all Northern Ireland schools with the slogan "Join Our World Cup Squad—Don't Smoke."

Science report

Plotting speed of Moon's retreat

By the Staff of "Nature"

Did the birth of large areas of land mass about two billion years ago cause the Moon to move relatively rapidly away from the Earth?

Dr Alan Binder, from the University of Münster in West Germany, believes so. He has plotted a graph of estimates of the distance between Earth and Moon against time and found that the Moon speeded up its retreat from Earth at about the time when continents were beginning to form.

When the Earth and Moon were created, about 4.5 billion years ago, they were much closer than today. Since then the Earth has lost angular momentum because of the dissipation of tidal energy by friction in the oceans. As angular momentum within the Earth-Moon system is conserved, the Moon has compensated by gradually moving its orbit further away from Earth.

The two bodies are now separating by 3.8 cm a year. The speed of separation, however, may not always have been the same, for it is in part determined by tidal friction. In a young Earth largely covered by deep ocean that would have been much less than today, when most tidal energy is dissipated in the shallow waters around continents. So the emergence of continents would seem to have led to an increase in tidal friction, which would have caused the Moon to retreat more rapidly away from the Earth.

The Earth-Moon distance today can be accurately measured by laser-ranging experiments. But for estimates of the distance over the past few thousand years Dr Binder had to rely on historical data on eclipses.

And for estimates going back three billion years he has used evidence from rings in fossils. He has assumed that four and a half billion years ago, the Moon was as close to the Earth as theory would allow, about a twentieth of its present distance.

Dr Binder has deduced one of the key points on the curve from the Moon's shape. The Moon's slight bulge towards the Earth is thought to be frozen evidence of the Earth's gravitational pull at the time when the Moon solidified.

Dr Binder has estimated that the time taken for three billion years of retreat seems to have coincided with the burst of biological activity on Earth.

Some scientists will question that conclusion. At issue, for example, is the accuracy of the points on the curve and whether the Moon's bulge is a fossilized tide or the result of heat convection from the Moon's core.

Source: *Geophysics Research Letters*, Volume 9, pages 33-37. © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

techniques. They had refused to accept training as part of an earlier industrial dispute.

The Home Office said the governor, Mr Honey, must bear a large share of personal responsibility for loss of authority and control on the part of local management. But he had governed Wormwood Scrubs, arguably the most difficult establishment in the service, for seven years. "Too much may have been asked of him in carrying that demanding and stressful post for as long as he had."

He is now working in Prison Department headquarters.

□ The Howard League for Penal Reform yesterday renewed its demand for a public inquiry into the incident, "to implement a fairer and more humane system, which will be the benefit of all" (the Press Association reports).

Home Office Statement on the Background, Circumstances and Action Subsequently Taken relative to the Disturbance in D Wing of the Prison Wormwood Scrubs on 11st August 1979: Together with the Report of an Inquiry by the Regional Director of South East Region of the Prison Department (House of Commons Paper 199, Stationery Office, £5.45).

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The Home Office said that after the clash the staff imposed an unnecessarily restrictive regime under which all normal activities were seriously curtailed or cancelled. Prisoners in D wing were refused visits and chaplains, probation officers, and specialist staff, including psychologists, were refused access to them.

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A senior psychologist, at a meeting of heads of departments chaired by the governor on September 12, asked about the apparent discrepancy between the number of injured prisoners initially reported by

the media and the much higher figure to be found in the "reporting sick register".

In the psychologist's words, "there was a bit of an uproar".

The next day the psychology department was told that the relaxation governing the entry of specialists into D wing did not apply to them, and the local branch of the Prison Officers' Association began industrial action against the "duties".

psychologists. Mr Gibson said: "This took the form of total non-cooperation with the psychologists throughout the establishment with the result that psychologists had such limited contacts with prisoners that they were unable to perform their normal, established duties."

In D wing 163 prisoners had been sentenced for murder or some other act of homicide and a further 35 for other crimes of violence. The protest in the wing began when prisoners refused to return to their cells after their evening meal.

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TUC expulsion warning on Tebbit Bill

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Union leaders yesterday formally adopted the Labour movement's counter to the Government's employment Bill with a warning that any union which accepted the Tebbit Bill would be expelled from the TUC.

An eight-point plan of opposition, agreed unanimously by the TUC General Council, will commit the 112 affiliated unions to boycott the legislative provisions being steered through Parliament by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

For the first time, the TUC General Council will be empowered to organize industry-wide strikes in support of a union "attacked" by an employer using the employment Act, which is due to be introduced in mid-summer.

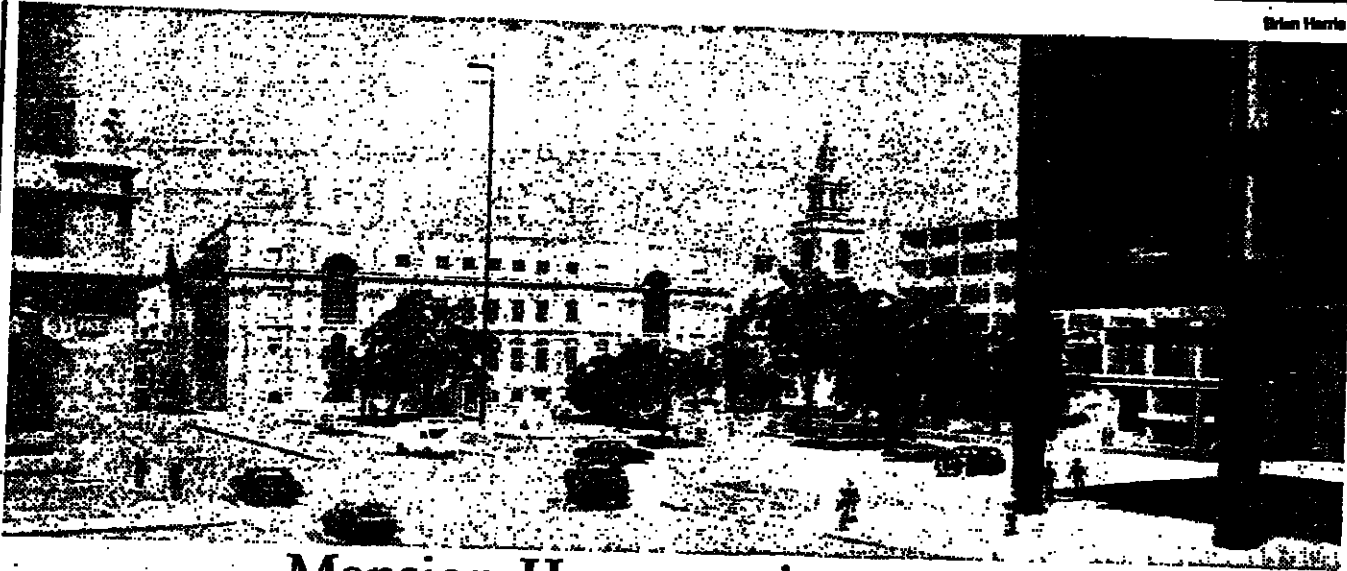
Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, coupled his presentation of the anti-Tebbit law campaign with a warning that action under the new rule 13 could lead to "suspension and even expulsion" of unions that defied the movement's policy and took public money for

A very few unions, but including important ones such as the engineering workers and the electricians, have been tempted by the offer of government cash for ballots they already carry out for union office, but Mr Murray said: "We have delivered them from their evil and ours is the kingdom."

The eight key recommendations being put to a special TUC conference of executives in Wembley on April 5 are:

1—Campaign: Affiliated unions to "highlight the dangers" to their members of the forthcoming legislation, and to seek support for opposition.

2—100 per cent trade union



Mansion House project attacked

The final plan for a new square in the crowded heart of the City of London has aroused bitter controversy among architects and conservationists (Hugh Clayton writes).

A 250ft block, the base of which appears at the right of the model picture above showing the square stretching eastwards to the Mansion House and St Stephen Walbrook, was dismissed yesterday as "architecturally old hat" by Mr John Harris, president of the

International Confederation of Architectural Museums.

Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of the Save Britain's Heritage Group, said: "The design will be 30 years old by the time it is actually built."

The plan to create the new square was initiated almost 25 years ago by Mr Peter Palumbo, who claims the designs are of the highest quality possible. The tower block, which would dominate the square, was designed by Mies van der Rohe, the exceptionally influential designer of the Seagram building in New York, who died in 1969.

Interferon discoverer was paid £5 a week

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

One of the discoverers of interferon, Dr Jean Lindenmann, was paid £5 a week in 1957 when he was a research fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, north London.

Dr Lindenmann received the grant from the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences to enable him to work at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, north London.

He recalled that grant yesterday, which he described as generous for the time, when he opened a meeting at the Royal Society attended by academic and industrial research scientists directing work in the field. The gathering marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of

the discovery that when cells in the body are infected by an organism like an influenza virus, the cells manufacture a substance to neutralize the virus.

The word interferon was coined simply as a laboratory term for the composition of the agent.

After a quarter of a century, the questions being asked about interferon become increasingly profound. There is not one substance but a complicated family.

Furthermore, the biological properties of the interferons differ considerably and, hence, so does the medical usefulness of any particular substance.

Therefore the first of the formal sessions of the two-day Royal Society meeting

was devoted to a review of the present state of the science and the further work that needed to be done.

In some of the informal group discussions turned to medical applications, although the main papers on treatment of tumours will be presented today. But in one informal group details were given of a small trial at the Royal Free Hospital, London, of treating hepatitis — B virus. Results have been encouraging enough for the method to be considered for a wider trial.

Although the use of interferon in medicine seems to be on the brink of a big advance in several areas, the fact remains that the more scientists explore the substance, the more questions they provoke.

One of the world's foremost authorities on genetic engineering of interferon, Professor Charles Weissmann, of the Institute of Molecular Biology, Zurich, a founder member of the research company Elicon, described how there were 18 different genes in a human cell which could be switched on to manufacture its own particular member of the strain of alpha-interferons. There is also a beta and a gamma strain.

The gamma type is the least understood, but many scientists believe it may prove the most effective when it is ready for trials as a therapy for cancer.

The Pope's Canterbury visit Complex compromise stills church storm

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The inter-church storm which seemed to be going to break over the Pope's visit to Canterbury Cathedral in May has been averted by the Archbishop of Canterbury's announcement of details of the ceremonies and meetings, although there are still clouds on the horizon. At one point there was private talk of a boycott of the Canterbury events, in protest at the arrangements.

A complicated compromise has emerged. Dr Robert Runcie, who as leader of the Anglican Communion is official host for the entire Canterbury programme, is to invite all the members of the Free Church Federal Council, but not the members of the General Assembly of the British Council of Churches. He is also inviting several members of the Anglican Church from overseas, and the whole General Synod of the Church of England.

Behind this pattern of invitations lies much negotiation with interested parties, but some tension still exists. The British Council of Churches has excused itself from the event by indicating that its attendance would have been "inappropriate."

It is being said that some of the Anglican primates, disapproving of the occasion, did not want to be invited, while others felt more should be made of the Anglican Communion aspect, and less of the Church of England's particular role. On the Free Church side, there are apparently two views, one favouring a full turn-out and one inclined to be cooler. It is significant that Cardinal Hume has been invited to address the congress of the Free Church Federal Council in Newcastle next month by its moderator-elect, Dr Kenneth Greet, secretary of the Methodist Conference.

Dr Greet says he intends to be at Canterbury, and knows what he will say to the Pope during the planned "informal

discussion". Dr Runcie had made room on the programme of that day for such encounters, thereby reassuring some of the Free churchmen who had previously been expressing their misgivings. The secretary of the British Council of Churches, the Rev Philip Morgan, has already had discussions with Cardinal Hume, Dr Runcie, and Archbishop Casanovi, vice-president of the Secretariat for Christian Unity in Rome. Mr Morgan expressed himself "well satisfied" with the arrangements.

Meanwhile, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is understood to have replied to the letter of criticism he received from Free Church leaders of full diplomatic relations with the Holy See. The text was not released by the Foreign Office, but he is understood to have explained that diplomatic relations were a political matter rather than religious, and full relations with the Holy See were in Britain's diplomatic interests. Dr Greet, one of the signatories of the letter, said he would not take the matter further.

Two bishops of the Church of England have responded to misgivings in their church over the papal visit, with messages in their diocesan newsletters.

The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Rev David Brown, stated that the "since and wholehearted welcome" he expected the Church of England to give the Pope should not be misinterpreted as acceptance of Roman Catholic teaching.

The Bishop of Chichester, the Rt Rev Eric Kemp, says in his diocesan newsletter that the papacy of today is quite different from that of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Prejudices from the past should be set aside.

Riot school 'leader' defended

From our Correspondent
Liverpool

The mother of the girl allegedly behind the terror at St Saviour's Church of England primary school in Liverpool spoke out yesterday.

She defended her daughter aged 10 against claims from fellow pupils and parents, and added: "Whenever there is trouble at the school, she gets the blame."

Yesterday the girl, who was said to have run protection rackets, was at home with her family in a quiet street.

Clinging to her mother, she claimed that she was not involved in the classroom beatings and vandalism, which have forced the school to close for a cooling off period.

The girl's mother said "It is not fair that she should get all the blame. People say it is her fault because she is the biggest."

"She gets into mischief like all kids, but I would be shocked if she was doing what the others say."

One girl at the school claims she was burnt with a cigarette by the girl and younger boys say they were threatened with violence if they refused to pay protection money.

Mr Mike Storey chairman of Liverpool education committee confirmed yesterday that a relief headmaster would be drafted into St Saviour's on Monday.

Mr Arthur Cowman, former head of Toxteth primary school, will be among four new teachers when the school reopens.

Mr Storey said Mr Cowman had been chosen for his wide experience of work in Liverpool's troubled inner city. He added that it was unlikely that the present head would return on Monday.

Staff reinforcements will mean two teachers each for third and fourth year classes, Mr Storey said.

He went on: "An inquiry will begin on Monday and this could be followed by expulsions. We cannot tolerate children who terrorize others."

Mr Storey said that if there was a repeat of the riots at St Saviour's, the pupils would be ordered to stay off the premises.

Mr Cyril Kami, the caretaker of the school received a threatening telephone call yesterday warning him that he would receive a wreath. Minutes later, a large bouquet was delivered with the message: "Peace. Where there is bad there is twice as much good."

Community leaders were trying to rebuild the image of Toxteth yesterday after the outbreak of violence at St Saviour's School (A Correspondent writes).

At the Rialto Neighbourhood Council Centre, 100 teenagers were setting up a youth group aimed at quelling the disturbances. Mrs Cora Newell, aged 44, the administrator at the Rialto, said its purpose was to give young people a feeling of community pride.

Children sleep on the floor in strike

By David Hewson

Eight children in the care of Islington council in London spent last night in sleeping bags on the floor of a former old people's day centre after their homes were closed by striking members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo).

Senior council officers who are not among the 2,000 workers on strike prepared the makeshift accommodation for the children, who are aged between 11 and 15. All are sleeping on mattresses on the floor of the building, which has not been used for a year.

A rota of volunteer officials of the council, the only SDF-controlled authority in Britain, and local people has been prepared to look after the children. They were moved, with a police escort, and, in one case, through a picket line, on Tuesday night.

Mr Hugh Dewing, the council's chief executive, said the strike by the staff of two homes in Highbury New Park and Sheringham Road, left the children unattended on Monday night. "They have not got beds now but they are at least safe and secure, warm, fed and cared for, which, after all, is our statutory duty."

Mr John Rea Price, the council's director of social services, who worked with colleagues and members of the public to make the day centre, in Corsica Street, habitable yesterday, said: "I

am very sad that the children have to be pawns in this game because our job is to care for them."

"The children are totally torn by this. For the most vulnerable kids we have is something I find rather difficult to understand."

Mr William Hendley, the council's principal officer for children's homes, said the position had been explained to the children. The homes would remain closed during the dispute.

Sheena Burgess, publicity officer for Nalgo's Islington branch, said the children concerned had been at risk before because of the council's understaffing of its children's homes.

"It could not be easier to settle this dispute; it is over one man's contract. The council has been aware of the unsettling effect of this and have tried to explain their point of view to the children."

The strike started in the council's housing department when a temporary staff member who was told that a permanent job he had been offered was no longer available. Last Friday it spread to the council's other departments.

The Nalgo branch is due to meet today to decide whether to continue the dispute. The council's disciplinary body met last night and discussed the future of the housing department worker whose grievance started the strike.

'EVIL' MAN LED BOYS INTO CRIME

A professional criminal who "exercised his evil influence" over young men of low intelligence to lead them into crime, was jailed for five years at Inner London Crown Court yesterday for burglary and handling stolen documents.

Michael Heston-Francois, aged 47, who took part in the world's biggest art theft, of Rembrandt and Rubens paintings, in 1967, was told by Judge Shindler, QC, "You surrounded yourself by young men between 16 and 18 years of age, of low intelligence, while you are a man of very high intellect and cunning. You corrupted and led them into a life of crime."

Heston-Francois appeared to be the "poacher turned gamekeeper" after completing a seven-year jail sentence in 1974 for handling the £1.5m art treasures some of which were stolen from the Dulwich Gallery, London. He joined the Clerkenwell Workshops Project, London, as a caretaker, and worked his way up to security officer. It was in this position that he stole jewelry or precious metals valued at thousands of pounds.

Colin Gayman, aged 19, of Bowling Green Estate, Clapham, was put on probation for two years on two charges of burglary.

SHOOTING PLEA BY CORONER

A coroner yesterday recommended stiffer sentences for live ammunition is used during army exercises.

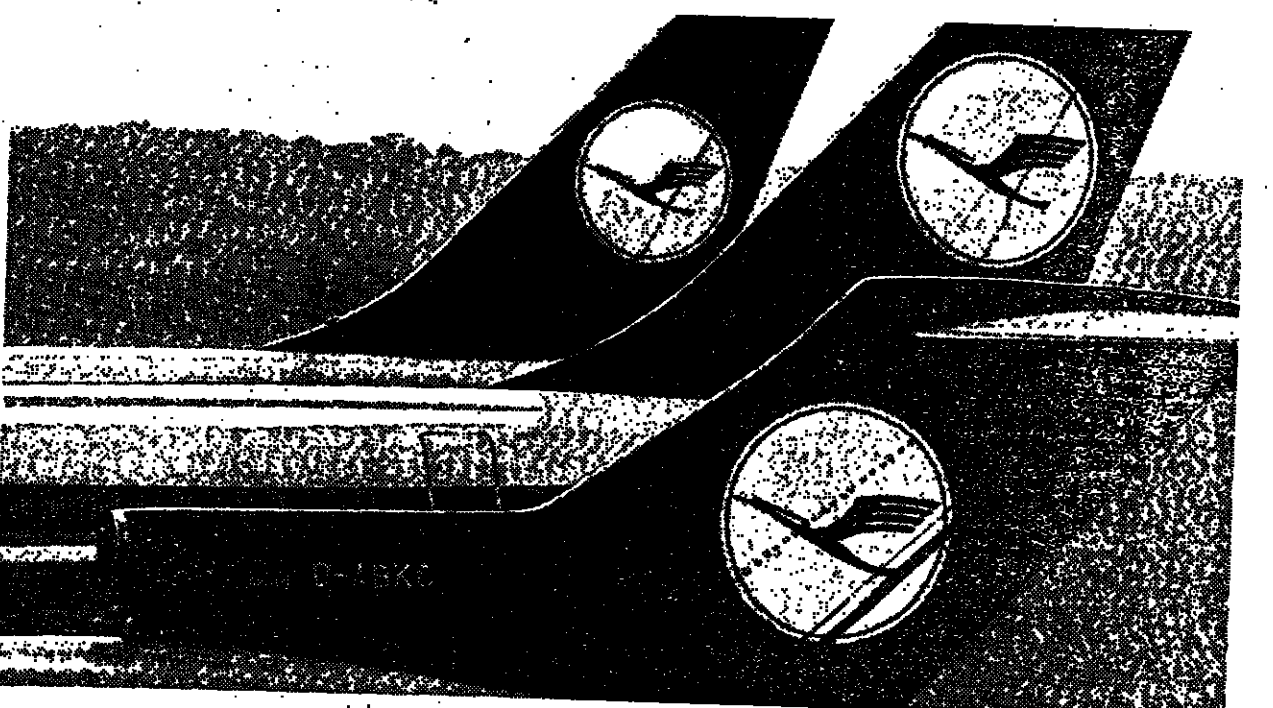
His suggestion, to the Ministry of Defence, comes after the death in December 1980 of Paul Nicholas Pendry, aged 22, a lieutenant in the 32nd Guided Weapons Regiment, Royal Artillery. He died four days after receiving a head wound during an exercise at Sennybridge, near Brecon.

Recording a verdict of accidental death on Lieutenant Pendry, of Bridge, near Canterbury, Kent, William Adams, South Glamorgan coroner, said four men were taking part in the exercise in pairs. They were armed with pistols and semi-automatic rifles. A machine gun on high ground, was used for effect. Lieutenant Pendry wore only a cap and no helmet.

Professor Bernard Knight, who carried out a post-mortem examination, gave the cause of death as a gunshot wound.

The coroner said it was not possible to decide from which rifle the bullet was fired, and a search failed to reveal any rocks or large stones from which the bullet might have ricocheted. There was no evidence to suggest the wound had been caused deliberately.

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PARLIAMENT February 24 1982

Minister rules out big subsidy for London fares

TRANSPORT

Any return to the sort of increase in rate-borne subsidy for public transport which the Greater London Council was apparently intending to inflict on London, and for which it had been campaigning, was ruled out by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport.

He was moving the second reading of the Transport Concessions (London) Bill which he said gave the GLC the same powers as other authorities to pay for travel concessions for elderly and disabled people.

This Bill did all that was necessary by way of legislation to sort out the position for the rest of this year, he said. He was looking at the overall travel picture further ahead and had asked Mr Ken Livingstone, the Labour Leader of the GLC, and Sir Peter Masefield, Chairman of London Transport, to come and meet him.

Mr Howell said the Transport Act 1968 gave these powers to counties and districts. These were extended to London Boroughs by the London Transport Act 1969, but not to the GLC. In 1974, the arrangements for the London boroughs were superseded by a London-wide scheme instituted by the GLC.

Following the House of Lords decision in the Bromley Council case, the GLC now told him it had been advised it could not use a power to subsidize London Transport to pay for concessionary travel.

There had been alarmist, irresponsible statements which had caused anxiety to London old people, on January 14, he said. Mr Livingstone had said that the Government believed the tangle should be cleared up. He had said it was willing to introduce legislation to bring the GLC's powers to provide for concessionary fares into line with those of other local authorities.

He was introducing the Bill so that the GLC could continue to pay travel concessions. It would be for them to decide how to use the powers which the Bill conferred.

There was no question of large additional grants to the GLC for this purpose, as had been erroneously reported. The Government supported the payment of a reasonable level of subsidy to maintain essential public service facilities. National £1,200m in bus and rail subsidies this year was being provided, he was concerned to ensure that there was a reasonable financial base for public transport in London.

It could not be argued that London Transport was without heavy public support. When it was handed over to the GLC originally, the Government wrote off debt of £270m to start with a clean sheet.

The GLC had pursued a policy of providing capital funds free so LT had not had to meet interest charges on borrowing for capital investment. This represented a further considerable subsidy.

In its recent publicity campaign, the GLC had totally misrepresented the extent to which LT had been subsidized in the past. Mr Livingstone had said he would be happy if LT could be subsidized to the same extent as British Rail London and South Eastern commuter services.

In fact the proportion of subsidy had been comparable. All was not well before the Labour Party took office last May with falling traffic and costs increasing far more than the movement in prices generally.

Between 1970 and 1980, passenger declines by 20 per cent, but the number of staff remained about the same. After the appointment of Sir Peter Masefield in August 1980 they were start to improve performance, but then came the 25 per cent fares cut which actually represented 32 per cent.

The findings of the courts demonstrated how that decision was taken on a purely political basis without consideration for the consequences.

TRANSPORT

The damage it did was not just to transfer a major share of the cost from travellers to rate-payers, but, even worse, it reversed progress towards improved efficiency and reduced costs made under Sir Peter.

Indiscriminate subsidies did little to deal with the underlying problems. On the contrary, the knowledge that somebody would pick up the bill reduced pressure to be efficient and cost-effective. The GLC wanted more money to run, more employees to be taken on, and to provide bigger wage settlements.

The first consideration must be to provide services as efficiently and economically as possible which were able to meet the real needs of the city.

London Transport was beginning to make progress here until the new regime appeared on the scene. There were three sources of the customer's money: the fare, the taxpayer, and the taxpayer. In London, they had got hopelessly out of balance.

Excluding any loss of block grant, it would have cost them £1,200m over the next four years over and above the grants LT normally got. The additional annual support would have risen from about £250m next year to more than £400m in 1985-86.

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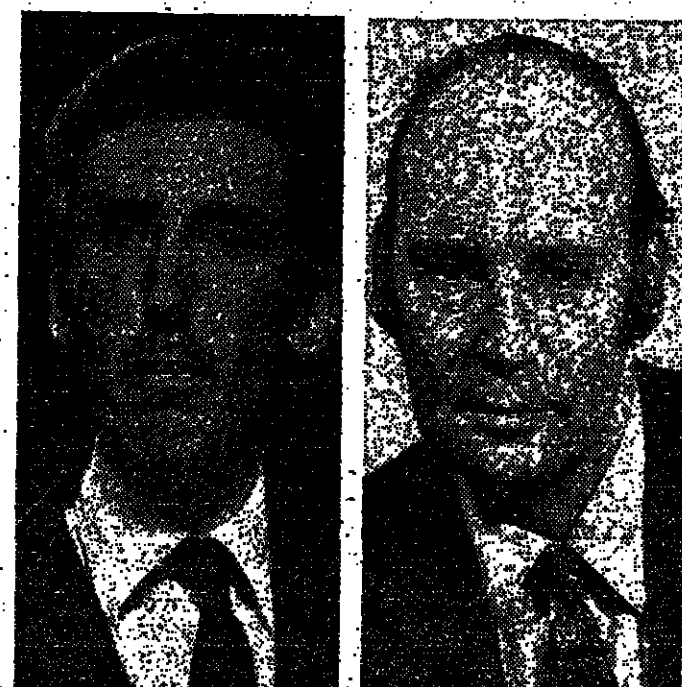
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Howell: No large grants

decision there would be increases in fares of 100 per cent and reductions in services.

Nothing frustrated the travelling public more than the gap between the published schedules and the actual buses which were running. Failure to meet schedules was devastating to people's morale.

Increasing fares led to a drop in passengers and loss of revenue. Loss of revenue compelled a reduction of services and passengers were put in alternative private transport.

London Transport (he said) is now locked into a vicious downward spiral which no one apparently knows how to end. All this is a direct result of the law lords' decision.

The Fares Fair policy had been a rational part of an integrated transport scheme. The GLC had always believed it had been acting within the law in implementing the mandate from the electorate and there now remained some confusion about the legal situation.

The right course was to remedy the deficiency in the law exposed by the law lords and the Opposition would seek to do that. Mr John Hunt (Bromley, Ravensbourne, C) repeaters had not been to the GLC to settle the rates which followed the Fares Fair scheme.

One of the most unfair aspects of the policy had been its effect on the elderly. As holders of concessionary passes they had not benefited from the low fares but as ratepayers had to pay the supplementary rate.

The scheme had destroyed the balance between ratepayers and fare payers, bringing the scales down firmly in favour of the traveller.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North, Lab) said the Government seemed unable to treat this serious issue as anything more than a petty party political and almost juvenile squabble.

More investment in public transport facilities was essential.

MP's BILL

A Bill to give control over floating structures used as reservoirs close to the coast was introduced under the 10-minute rule and read a first time.

Mr Peter Viggers (Coventry, C), seeking leave to introduce the Floating Structures (Control) Bill, said he raised the issue because of a project to pour a 60,000 tonne floating structure into the Solent. But the issue did have national significance.

The centre would be used to store propene and butane gas brought from the Middle East once a month by a large tanker for off-loading three or four times a week to small tankers for distribution throughout northern Europe.

The gas was highly inflammable and the proposal had raised a storm of protest in the area because of the possibility of an horrendous disaster which could result if there was a collision with an oil tanker.

Reservoir gas tankers were in use around the world and light petroleum gas tankers were already used in the Solent. He made no criticism of The Solent project, which had taken into account safety factors and environmental and social questions.

But no minister and no government department had any power to restrict the use of a vessel to be used as a floating reservoir. Although the British Transport Docks Board had some influence, if the structure had been sited four or five miles further from the port of Southampton no authority would have been capable of preventing a disaster.

There was no proper overall control, other than that which might be exercised by the port authority. The port authority had a statutory duty to take account of environmental factors. In fact there was no general planning control over shipping and floating structures near land.

The Bill would require that moored tanker ships and other floating structures near land would be subject to the sort of planning control that a power station on land and is open to a public inquiry.

probability of our being able to export him as I do not detect a great deal of demand for the product. (Laughter.)

Even at a time of great difficulty there are many firms in Scotland which are successful in exporting. Many people in jobs there can look forward to secure employment.

Mr Bruce Milnes, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland (Glasgow, Craigton, Lab): Far from Mrs Thatcher's speech being well received it would be a disaster for Scotland. It was a disaster for Scotland.

In the budget we need a massive boost to the economy. As previous Tory budgets have been disastrous for Scotland, Mr Younger has any influence in the Cabinet he should use it for once to provide a budget which would be good for Scotland.

Mr Younger: He should read the whole of Mrs Thatcher's speech. The Government's top priority is to help the people of this country who have lost their jobs to have at least some chance of getting new ones. The only way to do that is by stopping people pricing themselves out of jobs with many of the disastrous policies which Mr Milnes and his party have followed for so many years.

Weather-hit householders to get EEC aid

The cost to Glasgow council of the damage done to its housing stock during the recent severe weather was substantially less than had originally been suggested. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, said at a question time when asked if he had received any assessment from Glasgow District Council of extra expenditure for that purpose.

Mr Rifkind: While it is still not possible to give a firm figure for the expenditure involved, I understand that the council now estimates the cost at about £130,000. This includes both the estimated cost of repairing damaged property and other additional expenditure incurred by the



Hughes: Downward spiral

There was no doubt, whatever the law lords judgement, that at present London was being treated in a different and worse way from the rest of the country. Nobody knew what the law was so in these circumstances it was Mr Howell's duty to legislate instead of simply not carrying out his duty.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said it was time they looked at the question of concessionary bus fares otherwise people in London and pensioners were put in a privileged position compared to other areas with a high percentage of elderly people. There was a growing feeling that the GLC was an unnecessary cost and that the duties it performed could be delegated to local authorities below or transferred to central government.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham, South, Lab) said he did not think the fares increases were going to be cuts in services. He was going to have to search for new solutions because on top of the increasing increases there were going to be cuts in services.

There was an alternative to the package which the courts had imposed upon the GLC and now the Government realized that there had to be another answer. He hoped that Mr Howell would produce it whether by legislation or some other means before March 21, because the package would be to the detriment and diversion of the capital city.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Grenwich, Woolwich West, C) said the GLC tried to put up a Concorde development in public transport. The cost of four years had been estimated at £120m.

Wherever the present GLC found a problem it threw money at it without stopping to count the cost.

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Heseltine to hold talks on rural problems

HOUSING

The lack of new development and the provision of new services in villages was leading to tragic consequences, Lord Hylton (C) said when opening a debate on rural housing.

He said that planning controls were more restrictive in the country than in towns, leading to a scarcity of sites and of houses. Private renting had declined dramatically and the supply of houses in the country had decreased with lost jobs in agriculture.

There were fewer council houses and the high cost of providing small houses in small villages had made it more difficult for local authorities and housing associations to provide extra housing for rent. The consequence could be serious, and even tragic.

Central government should recognize the needs of villages and ensure they had proper priorities.

Lord Desmond of Whitley (L) said the financial policy of the Government had led to the undesirable situation where almost all housing in the country was in the private sector, and elsewhere, had been frozen.

Local government should be given a great deal more power. It was not to its credit that it should not be shackled in the way it was.

It was monstrous that local government, which could provide housing for people living locally at prices they could afford, were being forced to sell houses to private landlords at often low prices, not to mention ridiculous prices.

Lord Swinfen (C) said that rapid changes in modern communications would mean that many numbers of people who had worked in the cities would be able to live and work in the country. That would increase demand for housing and services and would put up the price of houses in the country.

The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Hon John Gough, said that the Government was aware of the greatest concern in rural areas was the departure of young married couples. Most villages had large properties, including schools, which were too large and could be converted to sheltered housing or to flats for the single homeless.

Lord Wakeham (C) said that council housing should be stepped up in rural areas. There was a crying shortage of houses for rent in rural areas which could be provided if their were more old people's homes for the elderly to move to, but the

children regional planning committee pooling system, the authorities would be charged only £400 a week because the costs were averaged out over a whole range of provision.

The Earl of Onslow (C) it does seem rather odd that £120 a week is spent on the looking after of these children, excluding staff. It does seem very high. The care is right and absolutely correct, but it is the administration as sound as the care?

Lord Elton: My impression from a visit there, reading papers connected with the case, seeing some of the children in the care, and looking at the staff, is that the work there is invaluable and is not merely assessment by also treatment, and will benefit society.

The local authorities is well aware of the shortage of resources and the need to administer its functions as efficiently and cheaply as possible.

Lord Gifford: Last year, 51 places were taken up, and 51 places were available.

Lord Elton: If these places were to operate at 100 per cent capacity, there would be no accommodation for emergency cases.

A significant proportion of their expenditure might not have been insured in the normal course of events. If that is confirmed, then that sum will be eligible for grants in the normal way.

Religion, drink and football

In 1981 there were 221 offences in Scotland of trying to enter sports grounds while drunk, 12 alcohol offences while travelling to and from sporting events, and 12 offences of possessing alcohol containers while attempting to enter sports grounds, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, said at a question time.

Mr Ronald Brown (Edinburgh, Leith, Lab) had asked how many people were arrested at football matches during 1981.

Mr Rifkind: Information on the total number of people arrested at football matches is not collected by my department.

Mr Brown: Many of those arrested have religious differences and do not go specifically to watch football. Is it not a disgrace that Rangers FC do not employ any Catholics? (Laughter shouts of "Answer".)

Mr John Mactaggart (Glasgow, Cathcart, Lab): The Government intend to introduce legislation concerning drink at football grounds and it would be much more responsible if, in order to monitor the working of that Act, it kept statistics about the number of arrests.

Mr Rifkind: We do not have information on the number arrested. That covers a whole series of different circumstances. We do have information on the number of new offences under the Criminal Justice Act.

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Elitism is defended by president of Nobel foundation

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A strong defence of elitism was made by Mr Stig Ramel, the Swedish president of the Nobel Prize Foundation, in London yesterday.

Delivering the fourth Royal Society lecture at the Royal Institution, Mr Ramel said that for many people elitism was the equivalent of a four-letter word. Consciously or unconsciously they suppressed the fact that we could not survive without an elite.

"Anti-elitism has become a powerful force in our societies. It has had a strong impact on our educational system, which unfortunately has led to a decline in the quality of education in schools and universities, a decline which in the long run will not only have a devastating effect on our material well-being but will also undermine the social safety net of the welfare state."

He said in his own country "the dangerous drift to level out the peaks of brilliance into the flat-land of mediocrity" had already had serious consequences for the development of science and technology.

Young people were not getting the education society needed to keep its competitive strength. Sweden had been forced to slow or stop social reforms.

The Nobel Prize, representing the crowning of an elite, had, of course, become a marvellous target for the

crusaders of anti-elitism, he said. As the "best and the brightest", the Nobel prize winners stood as symbols for the pursuit of excellence.

He believed the glamour of the Nobel prizes stimulated young people's interest in science and encouraged them to strive for excellence, to the benefit of the whole of society, including the so-called "losers".

Turning to the marked tendency of Nobel Prize-winners in recent years to be immigrants or refugees from other countries, Mr Ramel said he believed that people who broke away from their home environment to start a new life often became more creative.

Five out of 10 of last year's prize winners, for example, had got their education in a different country from that in which they were now resident. "This gives a thin silver lining to the dark clouds of tragedy and suffering now towering over the streams of refugees which flood the world," he said.

In the United States they cheered the fact that so many Nobel prizewinners were United States citizens. "What they should celebrate is the fact that American universities offer the most stimulating intellectual environment in the world and that these universities have become havens for people hounded by political persecution elsewhere."

Rugby star 'gave away' £25,000

J. R. P. Williams, the Welsh rugby player, gave away £25,000 of the money from his autobiography because two national newspaper stories branded him a "shameless" man, it was alleged in the High Court in London, yesterday.

John Reason, former rugby correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, told Mr Justice Russell and a jury it was only by unloading the money that Mr Williams could sue him over the articles.

Cross-examining Mr Reason, Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for the player, in his libel action, said: "It is an expensive way of conducting a libel action - giving away £25,000." Mr Reason replied: "Yes."

In his closing speech for the defence, Mr Charles Gray said that the "shameless" ideal in rugby, and Mr Reason attached "very considerable importance to it."

In his closing submissions for Mr Williams, Mr Hartley said the articles were "plainly defamatory" and had seriously affected the player's reputation.

Mr Williams, an orthopaedic surgeon of Llanstynor, South Glamorgan, is claiming damages against The Daily Telegraph, its editor, Mr William Deedes, and Mr Reason over two articles published in February and March, 1979, which alleged he had been accepting money from his book.

"The French position now", he told the committee on the European Communities, "is that because the additives have never been tested in the Continent, they should be prohibited until they have been tested and approved by the Scientific Committee for Food, which advises the EEC commission."

"To test one additive to the standard required costs £400,000 and takes three years. We claim that this is nonsense. It is a protectionist position which is being erected, especially by the

Lord Greenhill of Harrow, chairman of the committee, said the impression was given that any British firm wanting to expand into the EEC had to recognize that other countries were "up to all sorts of tricks".

Sixth sense?

Proposals that schools should lose their sixth forms stir up more bitter controversy than any issue since comprehensives were first thought of. This week The Times Educational Supplement tries to sort out the facts from the fears. Sixth form and tertiary colleges can offer more chances but what happens to the 11 to 16 schools left behind? Will the best teachers want to teach in them? Will the pupils miss out on subject choice and are they less likely to stay on? As pupil numbers fall - and before the schools run out of sixth formers - the need for answers is urgent.

It's all in The Times Educational Supplement on sale at your newsagent this week... it's a vital issue for all concerned.

THE TIMES

Educational Supplement

Scottish councils hit back on spending curbs

From Jonathan Wills, Edinburgh

Scottish local authorities yesterday began a counter-attack on government policies to curb council spending.

The president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Mr William K. Fitzgerald, of Tayside Regional Council, told a press conference in Edinburgh that council spending in Scotland was now 16.1 per cent less in real terms than it was in 1975-76. Central government had made nothing like the same cutback.

Mr Fitzgerald was speaking on the publication of a detailed convention report on the relationship between local and central government in Scotland. The report, *A Time to Listen, A Time to Speak Out*, says the public sector is not a parasite on the private sector, but complementary to it.

Mr Ronald G. Young of Strathclyde Regional Council, said that the present strategy of Mr George Young, Secretary of State for Scotland, was "dangerous, counter productive, ill-con-

ceived, slipshod and, frankly, dishonest".

Mr Younger, he said, was trying to alter the whole basis of local government by making his financial guidelines mandatory rather than indicative. The convention had at first welcomed the idea of overall spending guidelines, but those were now being used to control the details of each council's budget and to impose sanctions on those local authorities who fell out of line.

The group was so concerned at that trend that it had seriously considered calling the report *Towards 1984*.

Mr Young said that the Government was deliberately shifting the burden of council spending from the taxpayer to the ratepayer. The Secretary of State policy was leading to higher rates for the very people he had wished to protect, the small businessmen of Scotland.

Mr John Sewell, of Aberdeen District Council, agreed, and said that Scottish councils would have to put up their rates by 13 per cent this year on average just to maintain the present level of services.

The centralized control of council finance over the past year represented a big shift of power, he said, and that had "very worrying implications".

Walker will act over Spanish fish armada

By Craig Seton

New controls to stop Spanish fishing boats re-registering in Britain to gain access to EEC waters are being urgently considered by the Government.

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced yesterday that the Government was seeking to tighten the enforcement of rules to check registration abuses.

The Minister was reacting to strong protests from the South-west, where a so-called Spanish armada of more than 55 fishing vessels has exploited a loophole to re-register under British ownership and adopt home ports in Devon and Cornwall, although most of their catches in EEC waters are sent to Spain.

The issue had been raised by Mr David Harris, European MP for Cornwall and Plymouth, who said that many of the Spanish vessels were now owned by front companies which had been set up in Britain over the past 18 months.

In a letter to Mr Harris, Mr Walker said yesterday that the Department of Trade had been investigating several British companies used for the re-registration of Spanish vessels. Inspectors had found, however, that one of the companies the MP had named, although it operated from the address of an antique dealer in west London, still satisfied the criteria of the Merchant Shipping (Fishing Boat) Registry Order, 1981.



Miss Soo Tasker, supervisor of the Temperate House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, looking over the newly-modernized building yesterday. The house, closed for safety reasons in 1972, has been extensively rebuilt and more than 3,000 varieties of plants have been put in. It will be reopened by the Queen on May 13.

Perfume fraud case detective praised

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

The detective who tracked down and caught Siegmund Sperber, the international confidence trickster wanted throughout Europe, was commended yesterday by a judge at the Central Criminal Court for his "industry, skill and dedication".

The commendation was given to Detective Sergeant John Mullally of Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad at the end of a £271,000 perfume fraud trial. On Tuesday Sperber, known in Britain as Georg Pratten, was jailed for five years for his part in the fraud and yesterday *The Times* disclosed details of his career as the master of a cheque fraud system across Europe.

Sgt Mullally spent months pursuing Sperber and eventually gave evidence for 14 days during the trial. He suffered a heart attack during his investigations and is retiring. Yesterday was the completion of his last case.

Judge Neil McKinnon, QC, told him: "I have rarely known a case more complex or where the outcome was so dependent on the industry, skill and dedication of one man, a police officer. You are that man and I direct you be highly commended for your effort and this be placed on your record".

The commendation was

TV hearing rules 'unfair'

By Kenneth Gosling

Another protest about the way the Broadcasting Complaints Commission handles evidence is made today after an adjudication on a programme made by Southern Television.

Southern, which formerly held the commercial franchise now operated by TV South, is the third organisation to complain about the commission's hearing of complaints. The others were London Weekend Television and the BBC.

The commission upholds a complaint by Mr Nigel Nicolson over a regional documentary shown last August, entitled *All Passion Spent*, which dealt with the unconventional marital relations of his parents, Sir Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West.

Southern, the commission says, took insufficient steps to ensure that Mr Nicolson fully appreciated the treatment it intended to give the subject before he agreed to participate and relinquish his copyright.

In a statement, Southern says: "The producing company is in the position of a defendant but without the opportunity of confronting its accuser and with no chance of challenging his or her allegations in front of the commission."

Scotland advised to abolish the tawse

By Lucy Hodges

Scottish authorities have been advised to abolish the beating of boys in schools hours before the European court of Human Rights gives judgment in a case brought by two Scottish women.

The European judges in Strasbourg will deliver their decision today. If they rule against Britain, as the European Commission of Human Rights did last year, the judgment could have far-reaching effects.

The United Kingdom, alone in Europe, continues to allow the beating of school children. The Irish Republic banned the practice on the first of this month. Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, has issued advice that it should be phased out in Scotland by July 1984.

The complaints brought by Mrs Grace Campbell, of Glasgow, and Mrs Jane Cosans, of Fife, about the use of the Scottish tawse, a leather strap applied to the palm of the hand, hinge on a technicality because their children were not "beaten".

But the commission said that because the parents could not have their children taught "in conformity with their own religious and philosophical conviction" that was a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Even if Mrs Campbell and Mrs Cosans win today, the Government might not necessarily be forced to abolish corporal punishment. The Department of Education and Science seems to be in no mood to do so. Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary of State, has said that the campaign to abolish the case "threatens school discipline and the safety of pupils and staff".

Mrs Campbell's case was based on the refusal of Strathclyde regional education authority to promise that her son, then aged 11, would not be beaten.

Mrs Cosans's son was told to report for the belt after he had broken a school rule. He refused and was suspended from school. Fife regional education authority refused to guarantee that he would not be beaten.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Insurance group broke race Act

A Lloyds syndicate of insurance underwriters has admitted to breaking the Race Relations Act by refusing to give car insurance to Mrs Erica Mainprize, a Canadian-born woman who lives in Britain (Lucy Hodges writes). It has also agreed to pay her damages of £150 and her legal costs.

Mrs Mainprize, of Gildersdyke, Humberside, who is married to an Englishman, applied through brokers to Safeguard Motor Policies for car insurance in her own name. But she was told the company had rejected her because she was not born in the United Kingdom.

She complained to the Commission for Racial Equality and legal proceedings began.

Doctor returns to Soviet Union

Dr Vladimir Marmalyov, aged 34, who jumped ship in Liverpool on February 9 and sought political asylum in the United Kingdom returned to the Soviet Union on Wednesday February 17, it was confirmed yesterday.

The Home Office gave Dr Marmalyov permission to stay for six months. After that, his application to stay permanently would be reviewed. Yesterday, Mrs Jeanne Townsend, information officer for the British Refugee Council, said: "The Soviet consul has confirmed that Dr Marmalyov left London on February 17".

Police win pools

Five detectives in Reading, Berkshire, have won £23,388.65 for an £3 stake on Littlewoods pools. They are Detective Sergeant Robert Longland, aged 39, Detective Constable John Johnson, aged 25, David Gill, aged 25, Glenn Henham, aged 27, and Fred Coleman, aged 34.

'Legion' suspect

A Derbyshire woman, aged 46, was seriously ill in Chesterfield Royal Hospital yesterday with suspected legionnaire's disease. The woman was in the Chesterfield packaging factory of Robinson and Sons.

First-time chick

An albatross chick has been hatched for the first time in captivity at Birdland Sanctuary, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

UNFORTUNATELY MOST PEOPLE ONLY SEE ONE SIDE OF THE SAAB TURBO.

With a top speed of 122 mph and a unique turbo engine that brings a new dimension to overtaking, it's not surprising that the rear end of the Saab Turbo has become a pretty common sight on British roads today.

Yet if you caught one stationary, you'd find there's more than one side to a Turbo, than performance and acceleration.

For instance, a glance inside at the plush velour upholstery will immediately tell you you're going to be driving in luxury.

Sink into the sumptuous seats and you'll soon realise you're in a very stylish and spacious five-seater saloon. With the two front seats having a feature you'll definitely warm to in winter. Electric heating.

However, beneath that rear spoiler you'll probably be surprised to find something that spoils the capacity claims of many estate cars. A huge boot that more than doubles in capacity simply by folding down the rear seat.

You could say we play it safe by combining fast sports car performance, luxury saloon car comfort, and the practicality of lots of loading space with easy access.

Practical safety also comes with such features as diagonally split servo-assisted disc brakes all round, progressive power-steering, which hardens up when motoring hard and loses its tautness so ingeniously in tight corners, that even 'L' drivers being taught to park could think they've reached a very advanced driving stage.

Another very advanced feature not immediately evident to first time drivers of a Saab is the unique air filter in the ventilation system. It prevents all the usual dust and even pollen infiltrating the car interior.

Of course, it must be reassuring to know that the interior itself is one of the safest passenger compartments in the automotive world. It actually cocoons you in a solid steel safety cage.

Which must be almost as strong a case for buying a Turbo, than the one in favour of performance and acceleration.

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22 MPs rebel against Botha in race vote

From Gerald Shaw, Cape Town, Feb 24

The National Party split today when 22 MPs voted at a caucus meeting against a motion of confidence in Mr P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister, throwing white South African politics into turmoil.

If the split worsens it could result in a far-reaching political realignment. The vote came after several days of intense speculation about differences said to be developing in the party over constitutional policy. Dr Andries Treurnicht, Minister of State Administration, a right-wing intellectual and leader of the powerful Transvaal National Party, is opposed to any form of power-sharing with white, coloured (mixed race) and Indian South Africans in constitutional proposals expected to be unveiled later this session.

At today's caucus meeting Mr Botha gave the 22 dissidents until next Wednesday to reconsider. If the number of dissidents grows it will mean a powerful new political force on Mr Botha's right flank which might displace the official Progressive Federal Party opposition.

Mr Botha would like to keep the split to a minimum, getting rid of some trouble-

some right wingers but maintaining his comfortable majority in Parliament. He is still firmly in control, having gained 100 votes in his favour with 22 against and 19 MPs said to have been absent.

What happens will depend on Dr Treurnicht. He is said to have avoided casting his vote today by walking out of the meeting. But it will be difficult for him to avoid taking a public stand. He met a group of the dissident MPs in his Parliamentary office this afternoon.

If Dr Treurnicht, a former chairman of the Broederbond and influential in Dutch Reformed Church circles, decides to lead the breakaway movement, it could mean very serious difficulties for Mr Botha. A key question would then be whether Dr Treurnicht could get a vote of confidence from the Transvaal congress of the National Party.

The provincial party machine is organised on a strictly federal basis. If Dr Treurnicht were able to take the Transvaal with him, he would be in a position to challenge Mr Botha for the national leadership and to reunite Afrikanerdom under his own ultra-conservative banner.

When Dr Treurnicht met parliamentary correspondents tonight he said that he would not back down from his opposition to power-sharing in any circumstances. There could be no reconciliation in the party if Mr Botha did not give way. Power-sharing had never been Nationalist policy. On the contrary, it was the policy of the Progressive Federal Party and could never enjoy his support.

He has called a meeting of the Transvaal head committee of the National Party for this weekend. The committee includes all the Transvaal MPs and senior Cabinet ministers, including Mr R.F. Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Education, Mr F.W. de Klerk, Minister of Mines, and Dr Pieter Koorndyk, the minister in charge of Black Affairs. These ministers are likely to mount a campaign to restore party unity.

Mr Johannesburg: Miss Linda Bernhardt, well-known here for organizing shows for blacks, was arrested last night as she arrived from New York (AFP reports).

Police told her parents, who had waited in vain for her to emerge from customs at the Jan Smuts International Airport, that she had been held under article 22 of the General Laws Act, which allows a renewable 14 days' detention without trial. Miss Bernhardt specializes in bringing black entertainers from abroad to perform before black audiences.



Poland: Party at odds

Jaruzelski defends reform

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 24

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, today opened the first full meeting of the policy-making Central Committee with a 68-page speech that bitterly criticized Western sanctions, defended martial law and asked for an end to factional struggles in the Communist Party.

The speech, received with prolonged applause, comes at a time of growing pressure from the hardliners in the party and even some soft-spoken criticism from liberal reformers.

He made it clear that he was sticking to his line of tightly controlled economic reform — "Socialism can be reformed", he said in a reference to the hardliners — coupled with the reconstruction of the role of the Communist Party. Paraphrasing the slogan of underground Solidarity activists ("The winter is yours, the spring is ours"), he said: "the spring will not be yours or ours, it will simply be Polish and socialist".

The international situation, General Jaruzelski said, was deteriorating with the United States trying to make Poland a hotbed of tension and thus undermining the stability of peace in Europe. The Polish economy was suffering from the disastrous effects of sanctions, he said, praising Soviet assistance.

Martial law, the "state of war" (as it is called in Polish) could thus rather be seen as a state of anti-war, he said, the only way to maintain stability and peace at a time of growing world tension.

The speech had three main themes. First, there was a continuing need for martial law though some restrictions would be phased out. This was to keep control of the economy and ensure social stability. Second, the economy would recover in two to three years if the country remained calm. The slowness would regain its value and Poland's international standing would be restored.



Marathon man: General Jaruzelski presenting his 68-page speech to the policy makers in Warsaw

PAPER AND INK SEIZED ON BORDER

Warsaw, Feb 24 — Polish customs have confiscated paper and printing ink sent in aid parcels from the West, the PAP news agency reported today.

Officials found 16,500 sheets of printing paper and 21 tons of printing ink concealed in parcels of food and clothing sent by two Swedish firms.

The Polish Catholic lay organization, Pax, has suspended its former chairman, Mr Ryszard Reif, from membership, the Pax news-paper *Słowo Powszechne* reported. — Reuter.

Soviet Union accused of pummeling Helsinki act

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 24

In one of the sharpest exchanges yet at the European Security Conference, a United States delegate replied today to a Soviet accusation that the United States is leading a western attempt to sabotage the meeting by claiming that the USSR of "sheer hypocrisy".

Adding: "The Helsinki Final Act has been pummelled to near death by the Soviet Union".

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief United States delegate, said: "We are not a country who, he said, had either been sent to mental hospitals or sentenced to labour camps for denouncing the misuse of psychiatry."

He said: "Men and women, sane and exercising their rights as human beings under the Helsinki Final Act, have been, usually without trial, brutally condemned to the grotesque world of politically controlled psychiatric

Argentina to 'advise' Salvador

From Paul Ehlman, San Salvador, Feb 24

The spectre of an intervention in El Salvador by right-wing Latin American Governments fearful of a guerrilla victory here has been raised again by Salvadoran military officers.

General José Guillermo García, the powerful Salvadoran Defence Minister, flatly refused to rule out the possibility of "advisers" being sent to El Salvador by Argentina and other Latin American countries when he was questioned on this point yesterday. "At this moment we have no Argentines in El Salvador", General García said. Pressed on this point, he replied: "For the future I can't say. The future is the future."

His remarks came during the first visit to Argentina by El Salvador's Chief of Staff, Colonel Rafael Flores Lima. Colonel Flores' visit to Argentina is at the invitation of military figures there who, according to official sources, have offered to provide "advisers" and military equipment to El Salvador.

According to General García, Salvadoran officers and cadets are presently being trained in two other Latin American countries with repressive regimes — Chile and Paraguay.

Right-wing military figures in Latin America have become increasingly alarmed at the trend of events in Central America since the victory of the Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua in 1979. They are also showing signs of growing unease at the mounting opposition in the United States Congress to President Reagan's policies towards El Salvador.

"We let Jimmy Carter hand Nicaragua to the communists. We're not going to let Reagan do the same with El Salvador", an Argentine official said recently. He was referring to former President Carter's decision to cut off military supplies to the dictatorship of the late President Anastasio Somoza.

The source said that Argentina had already held discussions with military leaders in Chile and Brazil about the apparent success of the guerrilla campaign.

The International Red Cross has been shaken by what is regarded as a flagrant breach of the neutrality code by Señor Enrique de la Mata, of Spain, president of the League of Red Cross Societies, during a visit to El Salvador (Alan McGregor writes).

At a news conference in San Salvador earlier this month, he said that President José Napoleón Duarte was a "genetic democrat", dedicated to his country's welfare and deserving of support. He also criticized Western media for painting what he regarded as an excessively dramatic and negative picture of events there.

Señor de la Mata had gone to El Salvador to offer the Red Cross's good offices in bringing the conflict there to an end.

The International Committee of the Red Cross immediately issued, through its San Salvador delegation, a statement emphasizing that the Red Cross could not take sides.

Time for coffee in Lebanese limbo

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, Lebanon, Feb 24

Just 30 feet separates the Syrian paratroopers from the Muslim Lebanese militia men of Tripoli and today they faced each other with heavily armed nonchalance across a dusty highway which bears the appropriate name of Syria Street.

The Syrians dressed in the crimson and green camouflage dress of Colonel Rifat Assad's Special Forces, stood on the eastern side of the thoroughfare beneath the little hill where many of Tripoli's Alawite community have their homes.

The militia men lounged against their wood-and-sandbag emplacements on the other side of the road, beneath great flags which proclaimed that there was only one God and his prophet was Muhammad. In Tripoli these days, it is a point worth bearing in mind.

The city's fifth ceasefire, a truce of Byzantine complexity for which the militia men of the Popular Resistance Movement held out little hope, had just taken effect: an old man with a portable drinks stand had set up business beneath the bullet-scarred portrait of a martyr, dispensing thick Arabic coffee from small, painted china cups. The gunmen wore miniature Korans as pendants round their necks, a theological precaution which had failed to save the lives of 12 of their people.

As usual, the fighters wore fatigues, the intellectuals blue jeans. Hamze, balding but mustiched, supposed himself an intellectual although he would not disclose his second name for fear that the Syrians might arrest him once the ceasefire was consolidated.

Division between Muslims

Why were his men fighting the Syrians? And why had the fighting started in Tripoli just as the Syrian Army was trying to crush the uprising in the Syrian city Hama 100 miles away to the north east? His answers were cautious and somewhat unsatisfactory. "The people of Hama and the people of Tripoli are one people", he said, "because they are part of the Arab world and the Muslim world, but there is no coordination between what is happening in the two cities." Yet he seemed to hold more than sympathy for the rebels of Hama.

In reality, however, it is the division between Muslims that seems to matter in Tripoli where the minority Alawite sect — to which the Syrian leadership belongs — accounts for only 10 per cent of the city's population. Hamze himself is an Alawite but there is a powerful minority Sunni Muslim influence among the Islamic militiamen which identifies the Alawite citizens with the Syrian Army, an animosity that sometimes betrays itself in ugly, sectarian form.

Syrian motives suspected

It would indeed be a mistake to believe that the conflict in Tripoli was not also a popular and probably spontaneous reaction to the presence of the Syrian Army, whose duties in Lebanon have come to be regarded by many thousands of Muslims as well as Christians, as occupation rather than peace-keeping.

Arab Democratic Party, the pro-Syrian movement that is both supported and armed by the Syrians, a portrait of Colonel Rifat Assad — "Dr Assad", in the legend be- neath — all of Syria's Arab visitors. In a heavily-carpeted room beside a lacquered Chinese cupboard, Mr Rashid Mukhammad, the ADP's secretary general explained that the fighting in Tripoli was all part of "the plot".

The Lebanese are familiar with "the plot", a conspiracy of mind-boggling proportions which allegedly includes the United States, Israel and all the Arab enemies. Mr Mukhammad blamed the Tripoli conflict on America, Israel and Iraq, all of whom had supposedly conspired to divert Syria's attention from the struggle going on in southern Lebanon.

It was true, Mr Mukhammad said, that the Alawites were a minority and the Sunni Muslims a majority but it was coincidental that President Assad was an Alawite. The Alawites, he maintained, were at the very heart of the Arab struggle against Israel. The Syrians were only in Lebanon to keep the peace.

If what he said was true, then there must be a very large number of misguided Sunni Muslims in Tripoli.

Mr Mukhammad was forced to break off his interview by the arrival of a visitor who had come to assist in the ceasefire talks: across the carpet towards him, pistol at his hip, stepped the familiar figure of Mr Yassir Arafat.

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation did not look all that happy, he was, after all, rather long way from the borders of what once Palestine.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Giscard refuses to lie down



Paris — M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President, has refused to lie down after a heart attack, saying he will continue to work.

This means that at the still relatively young age of 56, he has decided to return to active politics, starting again on the same course as he did 24 years ago, when he was first elected a member of the local assembly of the Puy de Dôme in 1958.

Squatter snag for Mugabe

Salisbury — The Zimbabwe Government is being urged by the lawyers of a white farmer to take action against about 400 squatters defying a High Court order to move from land owned by him (Stephen Taylor writes).

More quit on Polisario

Addis Ababa — Three more states, making a total of 11, walked out of the meeting here of the Organization of African Unity's Council of Ministers in protest at the presence of the Polisario Front's Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

Mastel takes chess lead

Jonathan Mastel is in the sole lead in the Western European zonal tournament at Marbella after beating Michael Stean in the third round (Harry Golombek writes). This was a brilliant and crushing game by Mastel in which he disposed of Stean's Sicilian defence by an attack on the enemy King involving the sacrifice of a Bishop.

White rift grows in Salisbury

From Michael Hornsby, Salisbury, Feb 24

A rift is developing within the Republican (formerly Rhodesian Front) Party of Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister, between white and black members, who now sits on the Opposition benches in the black-dominated Parliament of Zimbabwe.

Mr Smith and his fellow MPs occupy the 20 seats in the 100-seat Assembly which are reserved for whites until 1987 under the terms of the Lancaster House constitution signed in London in December, 1979.

At a meeting of the party caucus next week, between five and 12 dissident Republican Front MPs are expected to announce their intention to defect and sit as independents. Although they do not as yet form an identifiable group, they may eventually establish a loose alliance.

A leading member of the dissidents is Mr Chris Andersen, who represents Salisbury's Mount Pleasant constituency. He is a former Minister of Justice in the pre-independence Government of Bishop Muzorewa. "A number of us feel that the Republican Front, because of the unchanged attitudes of its leaders, is no longer able to reflect the full range of the views and interests of the white electorate".

Mr Andersen said "We believe we must adopt a more constructive approach if we are to make the best use of the years that remain before the reserved seats expire."

Last week, at an unusual meeting in Parliament with 70 white businessmen, at which he sought to reassure them about the future, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, dropped a public hint that he would find it easier to appoint whites to Cabinet posts if they were not members of the Republican Front.

At present, there is only one white member of the Cabinet, Mr Denis Norman, the Minister of Agriculture. They were previously president of the predominantly white Commercial Farmers' Union.

The suggestion that his party did not fully reflect white views was challenged today by Mr Smith. "All the whites I meet make it clear that we represent them."

Mr Smith admitted that he might not be able to prevent a breakaway but he doubted the discontent in his party to the sort of backbiting that was to be expected when the whites were facing difficult times.

Carrington visit, page 10

US delays missile programme

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 24

The Pentagon has announced a two-year delay in its programme to produce a new generation of the controversial Maverick air-to-ground missiles.

The decision, which comes after an investigation by *The Washington Post* into the missile's long record of expensive troubles, will provide useful ammunition to the growing number of Congressmen from both parties who want cuts in the \$215,000 (£113,000) 1983 defence budget.

There have already been protests at the announcement of the decision to increase defence spending by 18 per cent while cutting domestic programmes. Many Congressmen fear this increase will merely encourage the Pentagon to spend more money on weapons systems which are deficient.

The first generation of Maverick missiles, of which 20,000 are stockpiled in Europe and elsewhere, provide the Air Force with its primary anti-tank weapon. It is an air-to-ground guided missile and it has been ordered by six foreign countries and is being considered by another three.

Shortcomings have been seen in the first generation of Mavericks. It will not work in fog or heavy rain and there are often problems in finding and identifying targets. General John Vogt, who commanded air operations in Vietnam and later headed the Air Force in Europe, said in *The Washington Post*: "To have to rely on it as the main anti-tank weapon makes no sense."

The new generation of Mavericks is designed for greater accuracy with the inclusion of an advance in sensor design — it can detect and home on heat produced by tanks.

However, although \$173m has already been spent on developing the new missiles, the weapon has performed badly during testing. Of five live missile firings scheduled in the past four months, one aborted, two failed and two were postponed.

A decision to go ahead with the purchase of 61,000 missiles at a cost of \$5,000m was scheduled to be made this summer. However, the Pentagon has now announced that the decision is being put off until early 1984.

Mr Martin Chen, the Deputy Assistant Air Force Secretary, said: "We are certainly not abandoning Maverick. We have a missile we feel very strongly about

EEC defies tobacco lobby

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 24

The attitudes of leading manufacturers, he went on, "seem to me not far removed from those which lead British Leyland to sell their cars on the British Market at prices far above those they charge abroad. This is not, in my view, what the Common Market is about."

The report estimates that only about 2 per cent of prices would be affected by its proposals at this stage, although looks forward to tax increases being used as a way of controlling the smoking habit.

At the moment, taxes on cigarettes amount to 70 per cent of the retail price and 350 per cent of the production costs, but there is little chance that these levels act as a deterrent. Tables published with the report show that smoking in Britain has risen by almost 50 per cent in the past decade. This is presumably

Defence spins out Spanish trial

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 24

The delaying tactics of the defence were intensified when the court martial confirmed here today of 32 Spanish officers accused of involvement in last year's failed plot to overthrow democracy in Spain.

The Government want to finish the trial — fraught with danger for Spanish democracy — as quickly as possible. The defence obviously feel it is in their interests to delay matters as much as possible.

Yesterday the accused refused to appear in court at all until its president, Lieutenant-General Luis

Alvarez, head of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, expelled Señor Pedro Ramirez, editor of *Diario 16* from the court and suspended the newspaper's accreditation.

The newspaper had published an article on last year's events.

Today, defence lawyers demanded an adjournment until next Monday. "This is out of proportion and not possible," General Alvarez said, granting an adjournment of half an hour.

When the court resumed, Colonel Salvador Escandell, counsel for Lieutenant-Gen-

eral Jaime Milans del Bosch, moved to have the entire service record of his 66-year-old client read out.

For over an hour the court clerks, taking turns, read out the history in action of the young lieutenant who volunteered on Franco's side in the famous defence at Toledo, and in other exploits earning him Spain's equivalent of the Military Cross. This was followed by General Milans' service with the Blue Division on Hitler's side against Russia in the Second World War.

It was true, Mr Mukhammad said, that the Alawites were a minority and the Sunni Muslims a majority but it was coincidental that President Assad was an Alawite. The Alawites, he maintained, were at the very heart of the Arab struggle against Israel. The Syrians were only in Lebanon to keep the peace.

If what he said was true, then there must be a very large number of misguided Sunni Muslims in Tripoli.

Mr Mukhammad was forced to break off his interview by the arrival of a visitor who had come to assist in the ceasefire talks: across the carpet towards him, pistol at his hip, stepped the familiar figure of Mr Yassir Arafat.

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation did not look all that happy, he was, after all, rather long way from the borders of what once Palestine.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Hanoi stays silent on missing GIs

Bangkok—A high-level United States delegation left Hanoi with no new information on the whereabouts of the 2,500 American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam war and an awareness of how hostile the Vietnamese feel towards the United States on the issue. (Neil Kelly writes)

Mr Richard Armitage, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence who led the mission, claimed on his return to Bangkok that he had found "a new spirit of cooperation" but the Vietnamese could not have been more brutally frank in the discussions, according to well-informed officials.

The Vietnamese threatened no more cooperation at all unless the Americans stopped using the issue as a political weapon against them. Some of the missing men, buried hurriedly in unmarked graves, took a long time to find and yet the Vietnamese were being accused of "holding back".

Female watch on Gaddafi

Tunis—Accompanied by 10 female uniformed bodyguards, some of them teen-agers, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya began talks in Calthage with President Bourguiba, their first encounter since the aborted merger of the two countries in 1974.

His guards carried pistols and were in battle dress. Colonel Gaddafi had spent the night in President Bourguiba's home town of Monastir.

Strike at 'New York Times'

New York—Peace talks were continuing at The New York Times to try to prevent a recurrence of a drivers' strike that had prevented distribution of most copies of the newspaper in the New York area. (Christopher Thomas writes)

Only about 80,000 copies of the normal 875,000 run were printed on Tuesday night.

Fighting talk in Peking

Peking—Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping who met Mr Khieu Samphan, leader of the Marxist Khmer Rouge, here for talks on the fight against the Vietnamese-backed regime in Phnom Penh.

Mr Deng who last week met Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian head of state, has asked anti-Vietnamese resistance groups to forget their differences and set up a coalition Government.

Recompense for peace fighter

Oslo—Alva Myrdal, who is 80 and the former Swedish Minister of Disarmament, was awarded an honorary "Norwegian People's Peace Prize". She said the 375,000 kroner (£35,000) prize money would go to a fund for disarmament and peace.

Nineteen Norwegian political and pacifist organizations launched a nationwide collection of money for Mrs Myrdal after the Norwegian Nobel Committee failed to award the Peace Prize to her.

Fit Kissinger

Boston—Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, who underwent open-heart surgery two weeks ago, was discharged from hospital and said he felt "in fine shape and in great spirits". He added: "I'm told I'll be more vital than ever".

Test tube girl

Paris—France's first test tube baby, a girl weighing 7½ lb, was born in Clamart, near Paris, delivered by Professor René Frydman in a normal birth. Britain, Australia and the United States are the only other countries with test tube babies.

Steamroller death

Invercargill—Andrew Tom Remick, aged 20, an Englishman who came to New Zealand three weeks ago, died on his first day at work when a steamroller he was driving slid off a road, overturned down a bank and crushed him, police reported. His parents live in St Columb, Cornwall.

Aid for Aborigines

Perth—Emergency food supplies are being air-dropped to 450 aborigines cut off by monsoon rains in the isolated far north of Western Australia.

Narrow win in referendum



Joy in Godthab: Anti-Marketisers celebrate their victory with torches in Greenland's capital.

Greenland decides to quit EEC

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen, Feb 24

The streets of Godthab, the tiny capital of Greenland, resounded to the sound of fireworks and cheering early this morning as anti-Marketisers celebrated their narrow victory in yesterday's referendum on continued membership of the European Economic Community.

The poll, in which a record 75 per cent of Greenland's 32,000 electorate participated, resulted in a 52 per cent vote for leaving the EEC to a 46 per cent pro-Market vote.

Although the referendum was consultative, the result will almost certainly lead to the icebound north Atlantic territory, which gained home rule under the Danish crown in 1979, leaving the Common Market by 1985 at the latest. Despite a 70 per cent anti-EEC vote in a previous referendum, Greenland, then only a province of Denmark, reluctantly joined the Market along with the mother country in 1973.

Mr Jonathan Motzfeldt, chairman of the local Greenland parliament in Godthab, the leader of the ruling left wing anti-EEC Siumut Party, flew today to Copenhagen for talks on Greenland's future with the Danish government. With its 13 of the 21 seats in the Greenland Assembly, Siumut will have no difficulty gaining local parliamentary assent at a special session next month, for legislation empowering Denmark to start negotiations with Brussels.

Mr Anker Joergensen, the Danish Prime Minister, said today that Denmark "would respect any decision by

Greenland to leave the EEC, but gave a warning that it would not compensate the territory for lost EEC subsidies.

"The Danish government would have preferred Greenland to stay inside the Community," Mr Joergensen told Ritzau, the Danish news agency. "But we are prepared to help the island in negotiations for a withdrawal from the EEC if that is the final decision the Greenland parliament reaches."

In a radio interview, Mr Paul Dalsager, Denmark's Agricultural Commissioner, said that he regretted the referendum result. He also said that expected efforts by the territory to acquire associate status with the Common Market, such as some French, British and Dutch overseas territories enjoy, might receive a cool reception in Brussels.

"The island's economic importance within the EEC is so minimal that its withdrawal will have no effect on the Common Market," Mr Dalsager said.

Anti-EEC sentiment in Greenland is rooted more in nationalist feeling than in economic issues, although the EEC fisheries policy was bitterly resented as outside interference in the island's most vital industry. The result of the poll reflects the sense of estrangement from distant Europe of a largely Eskimo people, its desire for closer ties with north American Inuit (Eskimo) communities and not least its growing sense of national awareness and identity just three years

after devolution. In the past 30 years, Greenland a Danish colony for about 200 years until 1953, has developed from a primitive trapping and fishing society to a modern state with lead, zinc, and cryolite mining rivaling fishing as a source of export revenue. Greenland's rapid increase in living standards has brought with it serious problems, such as high rates of venereal disease and alcoholism.

Economically Greenland will lose from leaving the Common Market. Combined EEC regional, social and agricultural aid to the island is currently running at about 185m kroner (£12.5m), and the European Investment Bank has granted Greenland 385m kroner in loans since 1973.

Siumut and Opposition politicians agree that the referendum decision will not affect Greenland's defence commitments (there is an important United States air base at Thule in the north of the island), or its home rule status under Denmark, which provides it with 1,800m kroner in aid per year.

Brussels: The European Commission noted "with regret" today that Greenland had voted to leave (Ian Murray writes). At the same time there was no clear idea of the long negotiations will mean that Greenland will remain a member of the Community until January, 1984.

The European Commission is not to make any further statement on the issue until after consultations with the Danish and Greenland authorities. It is unlikely, however, that fishing rights for this year or next will in any way be affected.

Greenland's position within Denmark is somewhat analogous to that of the Isle of Man in the United Kingdom, after devolution.

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Obote men hunt guerrillas after raid

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, Feb 24

Uganda security forces today continued to sweep the Kampala area in search of an estimated 300 anti-government guerrillas who attacked the Malindi barracks in Kampala yesterday.

Part of the search was concentrated near the Roman Catholic Cathedral on Rubaga Hill, where some of the guerrillas were positioned. Defence Ministry officials say they found a cache of 60mm mortar shells near the statue of Christ the King in front of the cathedral.

Reports from Kampala say that armed soldiers entered the cathedral and took away the men they found there, but did not molest women worshippers. Although the centre of Kampala was nearly back to normal today, Army road blocks were operating throughout the city.

A Government statement said that the attack, for which the Uganda Freedom Movement (one of several underground groups) was claimed responsibility, was not a hit-and-run affair, but was aimed at capturing the barracks and overthrowing the Government. This view was based on the interrogation of captured guerrillas.

The attempt failed. The remaining guerrillas fled in disarray, abandoning large quantities of arms, according to the Defence Ministry. No complete casualty figures have been given, but the ministry says that at least 67 bodies of "terrorists" have been counted, and that two Ugandan soldiers were killed. Ten of the attackers are said to be wounded.

The official statement makes no mention of civilian casualties but reports from Kampala say an unknown number died either in the fighting or in the subsequent action of the Uganda Army.

A businessman in Kampala today said that army patrols were picking up young men who could not give a satisfactory explanation of their movements and were taking them away, presumably for interrogation. Although no casualties were reported in Kampala last night most people stayed at home.

The UFM is one of three underground groups that recently merged under the name of the Uganda Patriotic Front. The merger was announced in London by two former Ugandan presidents, Mr Yusef Lule and Mr Godfrey Binaisa.

Last-ditch effort to alter sea law text

By David Cross

British Industry has launched a last minute attempt to persuade the Government to join America in seeking modifications to a draft text of the United Nations Law of the Sea conference.

At a London press conference yesterday, Professor Donald Denman, former head of the department of land economy at Cambridge University, said that the draft document tilts unfairly in favour of the developing countries and the Soviet Union and its allies at the expense of the industrialized nations. Moreover, it would set up a giant United Nations quango which would have an absolute monopoly over at least one half of the deep seabed resources of the world.

Professor Denman, who recently had talks in the United States with American officials involved in the Law of the Sea conference, has written a paper for the British organization, Aims of Industry, entitled "The Law of the Sea Conference—need to Think Again Before We Sign". The next and probably final round of the talks are due to open in New York on March 8.

The Americans have been having second thoughts about approving the draft convention, mainly because of its alleged discrimination against industrialized Western nations on access to mineral resources on the deep seabed although it is reasonably happy with other aspects of the draft convention dealing with navigation right on the high seas.

According to Professor Denman, the United States feels very conscious of being regarded as a spoil-sport in the international community because of its isolated stand on the draft convention. "Britain and its Western allies should not leave America to stand alone on this issue", Mr Michael Myers, director of Aims of Industry, said yesterday. "It would be disastrous if the outcome of the United Nations conference became America versus the rest of the world. This would be a propaganda gift to the Soviet Union."

Professor Denman and British industrialists feel that the Government and possibly other EEC states may be about to rally to the American cause. They have written to Mrs Thatcher, the Foreign Office and the Department of Energy outlining their concerns and asking for meetings before the conference restarts.

Asked how the draft convention had got so far before the American Administration had paused for reflection, Professor Denman said that he believed the industrialized countries had been so pleased at getting their way over navigation rights that they had turned a blind eye to deficiencies on parts of the treaty dealing with mineral rights on the deep seabed.

He said that the industrialized nations' commitments into which Britain was entering were so important that even entry into the Common Market paled into insignificance beside them, Professor Denman said.

Williams argues with judge

From Neil Sutherland Atlanta, Feb 24

Wayne Williams ended testimony in his own defence in a series of angry arguments with the prosecution and judge.

The attitude of the 23-year-old black — facing charges on two of 28 killings of young blacks — was in complete contrast to his coolness in the witness box yesterday. He was rebuked by Judge Clarence Cooper for arguing and snapping back: "I'm trying to answer the question."

He accused the prosecution of programming witnesses to lie so they could build a "two-bit" case without evidence.

Astray in the wilds of America

From Nicholas Hirst Washington, Feb 24

Mr James Watt, the controversial Secretary of the Interior, has been plunged into a new controversy, in which the environmentalists are up in arms. There is likely to be a fierce battle in Congress.

At the weekend Mr Watt, whose style, dress and bookish square-rimmed glasses give him more the appearance of an evangelist preacher than a politician, appeared to reverse his earlier policy of pushing for oil and gas mineral exploration in wilderness areas.

"This week I will ask the Congress... to quickly adopt new legislation that would prohibit the drilling or mining in the wilderness to the end of the century," he said on television. But with a draft copy of the Bill, he intends to put before Congress in its hands, the Wilderness Society, an environmentalist group, is accusing Mr Watt of duplicity. As the law stands, exploration companies had until December 31 next year to search in wilderness areas which are intended to be closed to all except hikers and other hardy nature lovers. A wilderness area is one where man is a visitor, but does not remain and does not take his mark.

Mr Watt, whose solution to the American oil shortage is to "produce, produce, produce," wanted last year to extend the time companies could apply for mineral drilling until 2003. At the weekend he appeared to reverse this position. Environmentalists, however, believe that the effect of what Mr Watt intends is not at all in their interests.

"This Bill is a duplicitous hoax and we will oppose it," Mr William Turnage, executive director of the Wilderness Society, said yesterday. "It is not a wilderness protection Bill as Mr Watt claims it is, but a wilderness sunset Bill, that would end wilderness protection."

Mr Larry Williams, also of the Wilderness Society, explained that the environmentalist movement was losing more than it would gain. Congress had not, in fact, granted any applications for drilling in wilderness areas and was not about to do so. Instead, the wilderness was being closed off next year, the whole debate could be reopened in 18 years.

There were other provisions opposed by the Wilderness Society. The draft legislation would prohibit the establishment of "buffer zones" around wilderness areas with restrictions on use and would release lands presently considered for designation as wilderness for mineral development.

Members of Congress have said they want to look at the legislation in detail before agreeing to it and Mr Harmon Kallman, a spokesman for the Interior Department, said that the final version of the Bill had not been drafted.

Mr Watt, however, has yet another fight on his hands, to add to the problems he has already encountered. The House energy committee, chaired by Representative John D. Dingell (Democrat, Michigan) is to take up on Thursday one of its subcommittee's recommendations that Mr Watt should be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions and supply subpoenaed documents containing Administration views on Canada's national energy policy.

Paris and Bonn in tune again

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 24

The thirty-ninth Franco-German Summit meeting, which opened in Paris today, marks the revival of the "privileged relations" between the two countries.

These went through a period of uncertainty after the Socialist victory in France last summer, and the end of the personal friendship between heads of state. Substantial differences of approach to the Polish crisis and the revival of East-West tension added to the difficulties.

There was also a time when the Socialist Government of France toyed with the possibility of "replacing" West Germany with Britain as a special partner in Europe. But, in spite of charged domestic and foreign priorities, the Government has moved back to the traditional Gaullist line, after disappointment with the British approach to Europe. This disenchantment has been increased more recently by the crisis brewing over the Community budget and agriculture.

The Paris-Bonn axis — though the word is, of course, never used — has now come to be regarded in the French capital as the only solid basis for the future development of the Community, and for the defence of European interests, in relation to both the United States and the Soviet Union.

This is why the summit has been described by the Elysee Palace spokesman as very important for the security and future of the European Community. The brief coolness in the relationship between President Mitterrand and Herr Schmidt is now over.

The Chancellor, in an interview with Le Monde yesterday, implied as much when he said that they would "cooperate as harmoniously and with as much mutual understanding as in the severest of times," that is, when Mr Giscard d'Estaing was in office.

Both Governments are now convinced of the need to adopt the same approach both towards the Soviet Union on Poland and the revival of East-West tension, and towards the United States on high interest rates.

Herr Schmidt has made it clear that, in his view, the economic crisis is as great a danger to Europe as the Polish one.

Wellington warned off trade deal

From W. P. Reeves Wellington, Feb 24

Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, today advised against a trade treaty between New Zealand and the EEC arguing that it was not in New Zealand's interest at present. The New Zealand Government had discussed the idea with him in talks over the past two days.

Mr Thorn said it would be counterproductive to raise the question now when the Community was reviewing its common agricultural policy and its budget and discussing New Zealand's better quotas for next year.

"To introduce at this stage the idea of a long-term trade agreement could complicate matters in a way which would not, we think, be in your own interests," Mr Thorn told a press conference.

For a foreseeable future a long-term agreement would carry the risk of far lower quotas for New Zealand exports to the EEC than would be gained by discussions every two or three years.

Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, has for several years promoted the idea of a treaty with European leaders in the expectation that such an arrangement would guarantee access would avoid the need for the constant renegotiation of quotas.

Mr Thorn did not rule out a treaty in the future. The EEC wanted trade with New Zealand over a long period and it was in the Community's interests as well as New Zealand's to know what the terms of trade would be in the future.

He would not be drawn on New Zealand's likely better quota for next year. This year the total is 92,000 tonnes.

Washing machine war breaks out in China

From David Bonavia, Peking, Feb 24

The People's Daily today painted a picture of mounting chaos in the Chinese economy, as provinces and districts, cities and communes vie with each other to produce more and more consumer goods.

In a front-page editorial, it demanded a return to stricter economic planning, saying that China must be managed like a chessboard to prevent waste of resources. The paper dismissed the regions had set up protective barriers against each other's products, and said that this must cease.

"Any product made in the Chinese People's Republic can be sold in any other part of the country, and no district, department or leader may prevent it. Proper competition must be permitted and backwardness may not be protected," it said.

The craze for consumer goods production is a result of the policy of industrial readjustment to reduce steel and other heavy industrial products in favour of more consumer goods, a policy promoted by Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping whose political role is now controversial.

Mr Deng, who is 77, and several other elderly leaders are expected to retire from active guidance of the Communist Party and Government at the party's twelfth congress in the second half of this year.

"There is one Province" the newspaper said, "which has set up more than 40 domestic washing machine factories, creating pressure of stocks, wasting raw materials and consuming too much energy. Meanwhile, the famous brand-name products which the people like cannot be supplied in sufficient quantities. Radios, televisions, sets, watches, bicycles and electric fans are all affected."

It calls for a policy of closure, termination, merger and conversion of unnecessary light industries, a policy which only last year was being imposed on heavy industries. It further attacks excessive production of non-grain crops by the peasants, especially tobacco and rapeseed. Mr Deng's name is also closely linked with the policy of letting the peasants grow whatever crops are most profitable.

□ Hongkong: China has begun to exploit its workers, as contract labourers, to non-communist and anti-communist countries in a programme of industrial readjustment. The middlemen involved, will create a foreign workforce of more than 2,000,000 Chinese within the decade (Peter Humphrey writes).

The year almost 20,000 Chinese workers are already overseas acquiring foreign currency and training that will assist in China's modernization drive under the economic policies of Mr Deng.

The labour trade will, at present wage levels, be earning more than \$10,300m (£5,500m) for China's treasury when it reaches its expected height in the late 1980s.



Facing the music: A jester's head on a carnival float greets the large crowd in New Orleans celebrating Mardi Gras. Hundreds of thousands enjoyed the jazz and jive in temperatures reaching the high seventies.

Developer may put Manhattan back on top

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 24

Many New Yorkers have long been incensed at losing the tallest building in the world; but they are now nurturing faint hopes that the city will finally top the 145ft of the Sears Tower in Chicago.

Architects hired by Mr Harold Helmsley, a real estate baron with assets reputed to be worth \$5,000m, have completed initial plans of a 120-story monster that would put at least 100ft on the Sears building.

"The plan has been around for a month or more," the architects said. "We have not heard any more so we cannot say if it stands any chance of getting off the ground. Maybe Mr Helmsley is still looking for a site."

He was unavailable for comment today but there are many who doubt his supposed desire to build the world's largest office block. They see it as little more than a gimmick to attract investors into the enterprise. Nevertheless, many New Yorkers are keeping their fingers crossed.

In 1946 New York had the tallest building in the United States — the Trinity Church, standing a mere 284ft. The city reinforced the record with ever-growing blocks like the Singer Building (1908), the Chrysler Building (1930), the Empire State Building (1930) and the World Trade Centre (1971).

Then came the blow. In 1974 the Sears Tower topped the world trade centre by 104ft, and has held the record ever since. New York has never really lost its jealousy.

Mr Helmsley's architects claim to know nothing about the possible site of the new building, although they understand it to be in the middle of Manhattan. "If it were in the middle it could sit on rock and might need only one cellar," a spokesman said.

"It is an exciting prospect; but such a building has many headaches, particularly the wind problem. Elevators are another problem. A building of that size requires an enormous number of elevators, which is why the world trade centre is, in fact, three buildings, one over the other, to minimize the amount of space elevators take up."

Exactly where such a building could go is fascinating in itself. One of the last big undeveloped plots in Central Manhattan is owned by the Post Office on Lexington Avenue; but the owners were not prepared to comment today on its possible use.

Not everybody, however, wants the Manhattan skyline to be added to. Conservationists have become a powerful force in the city and they have already thwarted one plan to redevelop the Grand Central area of the city with a massive tower block.

Even if Mr Helmsley is serious about his proposal, the conservationists may well be powerful enough to stop him. Nevertheless, most New Yorkers are intrigued in the prospect however remote, of regaining the tallest building in the world.

JAL suspends suspect crew

Tokyo—After medical examination of all its 2,243 flight deck crew, Japan Air Lines has grounded five of them for further check-ups. Mr Chikanori Noda, vice-president of flight operations, disclosed, On February 9 a JAL DC8 whose pilot was later found to be suffering from psychological illness crashed killing 24 people.

As the Foreign Secretary flies into Salisbury today, Michael Hornsby examines Mugabe's many problems

Can Carrington be happy with his African creation?

SALISBURY

Just over two years after putting his signature to the Lancaster House agreement which brought Zimbabwe to internationally recognized independence, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrives here today to survey the results of his constitutional handiwork. His timing, though accidental, is impeccable.

For Lord Carrington's two-day visit — arranged some months ago — falls in the midst of the most serious political crisis of the young republic's life, triggered by the dismissal from the coalition Cabinet last week of Mr Joshua Nkomo, the veteran nationalist leader, after the unearthing of weapons caches on farms owned by his Patriotic Front (formerly Zapu) party. It would be difficult to have devised a better test of the country's political stability.

Most at risk is the still fragile integration into a new national army of the 50,000 former guerrillas led by Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, the two main regulars of the old Rhodesian army, which with their civil war, Britain has been, and remains, closely involved in this exercise through the 160-member British Military Advisory and Training Team. So far

the army appears to have emerged unscathed from the political ructions, but the situation is still tense and potentially explosive.

At independence in April 1980, the guerrillas consisted roughly of 30,000 Zulu-speaking royalists, Mr Mugabe and drawn mainly from the Shona-speaking 80 per cent of the population who live in the north-east of the country, and 20,000 Zulu members under Mr Nkomo. These were mostly Ndebele speakers from the south-west, who account for 18 per cent of the country's inhabitants. The army is thus a microcosm of the nation, though the Ndebele are somewhat better represented.

The process of integration, which was formally completed towards the end of last year, survived two bouts of factional fighting between Zulu and Zulu units, the most serious occurring in Bulawayo in which more than 300 soldiers and civilians have been killed. The conflict was eventually quelled only by the intervention of the white-piloted air force. The fear that the dismissal of Mr Nkomo and other Zulu leaders might spark new civil war was very real.

The government moved swiftly, however. Army commanders of both Zulu and Zulu origin were summoned to Salisbury and lectured by Mr Mugabe on



Lord Carrington: a cool look at the constitution.



Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe: a fractured alliance.

the army's non-political role. They appear to have passed the message on to their men. The calm may be deceptive, and it is by no means certain that it would survive if Mr Nkomo were to be arrested, but it is none the less impressive. Other than extra guards at some key installations there is little evidence anywhere of special security measures.

Mr Mugabe's aim seems to be to use the issue of the arms caches to discredit Mr Nkomo and a few other top Zulu leaders rather than to launch a purge of Zulu elements in the armed forces. Assuming that the army comes through the present crisis, the main task ahead will be cutting it back to a more manageable size. At 60,000 men it is twice as big as it needs to be and demobilization incentives, including two years of full pay plus allowances and promises of jobs and higher education, have not so far made much impact.

The government has pressed ahead with social reforms such as free primary schooling and free medical care for the lower

paid, which have undoubtedly brought benefits to the broad mass of the people. But Lord Carrington is likely to hear complaints from white businessmen about the economic implications. Minimum wages have been raised by stages, going up on January 1 of this year by a further 23.5 per cent for commercial and industrial workers and 66 per cent for farm workers — though at \$2105 (£80) a month, the industrial minimum is scarcely princely.

Against a background of transport congestion, a severe foreign exchange shortage and loss of white skills, the wage rises and other social welfare measures have given a huge boost to consumer demand, fuelling a sharp rise in inflation to about 15 per cent. As a result, white employers have laid off workers in agriculture and domestic service, though in industry, where most employers already paid above the minimum, jobs have increased to meet the demand for consumer goods.

There is also uncertainty about future policy on

public ownership, where the government has so far moved cautiously despite much popular rhetoric. The strict compensation clauses of the Lancaster House constitution give a large measure of protection until 1990 to white minority or foreign ownership of all the country's main economic resources, agricultural, mineral and industrial. Not surprisingly, some of the Marxist radicals in Mr Mugabe's party are chafing at what they see as the maintenance of an essentially exploitative, neo-colonial economic structure.

Mr Mugabe's most difficult task in the long run will be to satisfy the growing impatience of the land-hungry peasantry — for if the struggle against white rule was not about land, it was not about anything.

There are estimated to be 800,000 families (more than 60 per cent of the total black population) crowded on the 40 million or so acres of so-called communal lands (the former tribal trust lands). It is reckoned that this area has the capacity to provide a liveli-

hood to only about half that number. A further 235,000 families have their breadwinners working in the towns and will be encouraged to join them there.

That leaves roughly 165,000 families, or nearly one million people, to be resettled on white-owned farmland, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of Zimbabwe's marketed produce.

Finding an answer to the land issue is likely in the end to be far more important than arguments about the merits and demerits of a one-party state. Always assuming that Mr Mugabe will not let so sensitive a question as the redistribution of land fall into the hands of a concept in defiance of the constraints built into the Lancaster House constitution and simple political prudence. The dismissal of Mr Nkomo, whose relations with Mr Mugabe have never been easy, is not necessarily ominous, and can be seen as an attempt to encourage a realignment of forces within Zulu more favourable to a voluntary merger with Mr Mugabe's Zanu (FF) Party.

One problem is that the civil service madly over-classifies documents. It is safer that way: nobody is punished if something very mundane is over-classified as highly secret, but if it is under-classified and leaks out then there could be trouble. Consequently the designation "confidential" is applied to many documents containing very ordinary information; routine policy discussions by ministers are often classified as "secret", while — in the delicious description of one now senior Treasury official — "top secret" is reserved for anything too sensitive to show to ministers. Yet behind these funny bureaucratic games lies the heavy blunderbuss of the Official Secrets Act, rarely used but by its mere existence intimidating those who might contemplate communicating about government to the press. It, together with the necessary courtesy of confidentiality between working colleagues, certainly silenced me.

One benefit of the continuing campaign for open government is that it has helped us to distinguish the genuine from the false reasons for official secrecy. Certainly there are some areas of government where sensible reformers now recognize that the national interest requires confidentiality. These include: sensitive aspects of defence technology and equipment; intelligence questions generally concerning Britain's security; areas of police activity; economic and financial proposals which might, if prematurely revealed, disrupt markets or allow privileged individuals to make financial gains. There is also the advice recently given to ministers

be devised. (What about "Will the Prime Minister state if she is satisfied with the Government's performance?" An open-ended question should certainly be followed by not more than one supplementary from each side and, if he gets up, from the Opposition leader.)

Parliamentary questions have sometimes been praised as the device the civil servants most fear, and sometimes dismissed as occasions which can be manipulated by the bureaucrats to their own advantage. Prime Minister's questions have been criticized as providing a too easy platform for the Prime Minister.

Yet a huge amount of information is prised out of departments by questions that could be obtained in no other way, while the Prime Minister's questions perform the invaluable function of forcing the most powerful person in the Executive to meet weekly challenges in Parliament (including from the alternative Prime Minister) instead of being confined to a world in which the only face-to-face challenge is from colleagues with shared objectives.

I remember hearing Mr Harold Macmillan, after a particularly irritating trip to see President de Gaulle, describe the atmosphere in Paris as that of a royal court, in which he would extend his hand to the Queen and go down to the Commons twice a week for questions.

Quite so. In our system, where the Prime Minister is not a presidential figure, question time is vital. It is therefore obvious that it should not be made to look silly — which is the way it often looks just now.

Between you and me, secrecy is here to stay

by Bernard Donoghue

The debate on official secrecy and the campaign to open up British Government is a classic minority issue. Only a few liberal intellectuals (not intended, despite the current climate, as a smear description) care passionately about it. An even smaller group of Whitehall mandarins feel equally passionately that open government is bound to often give the impression that even publishing today's date is a risky venture that might have to be reviewed (presumably by an official committee whose existence and designation could not be revealed).

Actually each side exaggerates the importance of the question. Mandarins talk as if revelation of the contents of these oceans of classified documents sloshing around Whitehall departments would somehow destroy the security of the realm. Liberal campaigners, including James Michael, whose book *The Politics of Secrecy* is published today, swallow this view and hunger to expose this arsenal of secrets to the public. In fact they would be disappointed. During five years in Downing Street, I read at least 90 per cent of the papers seen by two Prime Ministers, as well as thousands of other documents which did not go that high. Half of them would have been published. A few of them, weekly in the *Whitehall Gazette*. Policy specialists and gourmet bureaucrats would delight in the measured arguments and bland platitudes, but exposure would result in neither a fearful cataclysm nor some exciting new world. Fed by a surfeit of Whitehall papers, the media might even lose its appetite for them.

One problem is that the civil service madly over-classifies documents. It is safer that way: nobody is punished if something very mundane is over-classified as highly secret, but if it is under-classified and leaks out then there could be trouble. Consequently the designation "confidential" is applied to many documents containing very ordinary information; routine policy discussions by ministers are often classified as "secret", while — in the delicious description of one now senior Treasury official — "top secret" is reserved for anything too sensitive to show to ministers. Yet behind these funny bureaucratic games lies the heavy blunderbuss of the Official Secrets Act, rarely used but by its mere existence intimidating those who might contemplate communicating about government to the press. It, together with the necessary courtesy of confidentiality between working colleagues, certainly silenced me.

One benefit of the continuing campaign for open government is that it has helped us to distinguish the genuine from the false reasons for official secrecy. Certainly there are some areas of government where sensible reformers now recognize that the national interest requires confidentiality. These include: sensitive aspects of defence technology and equipment; intelligence questions generally concerning Britain's security; areas of police activity; economic and financial proposals which might, if prematurely revealed, disrupt markets or allow privileged individuals to make financial gains. There is also the advice recently given to ministers

by identifiable civil servants, and personal files on individual members of the public.

However, the reason for secrecy most often operating had nothing to do with security or legitimate confidentiality: the wish to preserve the convenience, or especially to avoid the embarrassment, of civil servants and ministers. The obsession with Cabinet leaks, which strikes even the best Prime Ministers (usually when their Administrations are running into political difficulties) usually reflects this fear of embarrassment. Which ever party is in power, leaks continue, aided more by the omnipresent photocopier machine than by the pressure for open government. Nobody seriously pretends that the national interest has been noticeably damaged, although temper and older traditions of courtesy may have been.

Endless "leak inquiries" are instituted by the Cabinet Office. During one particularly paranoid period, when I was in government, we were launching leak inquiries nearly every week. All were fruitless — perhaps because they usually started from the back of a few of those special advisers who were guilty and did not actually wish to identify regular civil servants or senior ministers.

In the case of the Crossman Diaries the Cabinet Secretary actually spent a week taking the publisher and the *Sunday Times* to the High Court on the grounds of the devastating threat they constituted to good government. He lost and they were published. A few of Crossman's former colleagues were justifiably irritated. Students of government were both enlightened and misled. Tony Benn was presumably encouraged to sit henceforward in Cabinet, openly taking notes for his own diaries.

The convincing case for more openness in British Government rests on three main arguments: that in a democracy the citizens should know the maximum about their government compatible with the genuine needs of national security; that a government should in principle be accountable, and accountability requires knowledge of what they are up to; and that an accountable government is in the long run likely to be more efficient (though sometimes more cautious, which is not incompatible).

But, however convincing the arguments for progress to more open government, I doubt if much will happen. Only deeply committed politicians could alter the culture of secrecy which permeates our bureaucracy. Most British politicians are in fact deeply ambivalent. In Opposition some of them court liberal and open government with broad promises of open government. In office they usually share their officials' view that close government is probably quicker and certainly less trouble. They also know that the liberal and open government is the enemy of the voting public does not actually care whether government is open or closed. While that remains regrettably so, the issue will continue to be fought between the liberal and the mandarins elites; and I know which one my money is on.

James Michael: *The Politics of Secrecy* (Penguin — £2.50).

The author was Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister in Downing Street 1974-9.

Proceedings in Parliament have never been as neat, tidy and clear as constitutional theorists would like. For one thing, they have an aspect which the late Mr Emrys Hughes, who sat as Labour Member for South Ayrshire, called mumbo-jumbo. By that he meant (as he explained in a book on the subject) antique ceremonial which wasted Members' time, and procedures which were completely incomprehensible to the outside public, and which some of the mumbo-jumbo was doing the opposite of what it was actually doing.

Some of this mumbo-jumbo has been swept away, including, for instance, the interruption of proceedings by the summons of Black Rod, which could interrupt a minister's speech in mid-sentence so that Members could troop off to the Lords to hear a Royal Commission signify the Queen's assent to a dreadfully long list of Bills.

Procedure, however, is always evolving beneath apparently constant forms to meet new conditions, and as it does a new kind of mumbo-jumbo develops. Question Time, and more specifically questions to the Prime Minister, are cases in point. The form now taken by Prime Minister's questions is partly the consequence of an honest attempt by MPs to pose questions of an honesty that would surely shock Mr Emrys Hughes as much as the Royal Commissioners

with their red robes and cocked hats once did. Questions to the Prime Minister must now seem to a visitor in the public gallery at least as incomprehensible as the ceremonial of past ages. What has happened, in effect, is that almost all questions to the Prime Minister are now reduced to a single formula, asking her "if she will list her official engagements for (say) Tuesday, 23rd February."

On this Tuesday's Order Paper, this was the form of 52 of the 63 questions tabled for Mrs Thatcher. The object is to table an open-ended question which enables the questioner (once Mrs Thatcher has briefly answered the question) to ask some such "surprise" supplementary question as whether she will take time during the day to consider reversing her economic policy which is causing massive unemployment.

Each of these questions (not that many can be got through in the allotted quarter of an hour) is called separately; each is followed by a wide range of disconnected supplementaries until the next question (usually with the same question) is reached. The Prime Minister then refers to her previous answer and the same ritual begins again.

As they always have, these occasions give the opportunity for a sparring match between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and for point-

scoring all round. Almost nothing of consequence is usually elicited, though the method does sometimes give the Prime Minister a chance to respond quickly to some new topic that has just arisen.

Questioning, this method of questioning, arose from the search by MPs for a form of question that could not be transferred to another minister on the ground that responsibility lay with his department.

Yet Mrs Thatcher has made it quite clear that she will not transfer questions addressed

to her. That was also the position of Mr Callaghan — but before he adopted it, the open-ended question had already developed.

At first, it took the form of asking the Prime Minister when she would next meet (say) the TUC which was a

cue for a supplementary on pay policy, that was not transferable. A later variation was to ask if the Prime Minister could find time to visit the Member's constituency — a negative answer bringing a request to bear in custom, read these speeches or were not present for the wind-up of a debate in which they had spoken, a Labour Member, Mr Eric Deakin, raised the question of the spread of open-ended questions to ordinary departmental ministers. The Speaker was in full agreement, saying that in future he would call the question but no supplementaries.

If the House wanted to move on to open questions it should do so after debate, he observed, which prompted Mr Patrick Cormack, a Conservative, to ask the Speaker if he would extend his ruling to open-ended questions to the Prime Minister. The Speaker said he thought it time the House looked at it, but was reluctant to take a decision himself.

The House would certainly be wise to deal with this modern mumbo-jumbo which wastes time, creates ridicule by asking the Prime Minister a silly question and rarely produces anything more substantial than point-scoring and occasional buffoonery.

It may not be desirable to rule out altogether the open-ended question though surely a more sensible form could

- Questions to the Prime Minister will start at 2.15 p.m.
- *Q1 Mr David Allen (Liverpool, Edg. Wilt): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q2 Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield, Lab.): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q3 Mr Neil Thomas (Cardiff, Edg. South): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q4 Mr Doug Hoyle (Warrington): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q5 Mr Alan Cunniff (Barnet): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q6 Mr Robert Perry (Liverpool, Scotland, Edg.): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q7 Mr Marcus Fiaz (Barnet): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q8 Mr John Wainwright (Dorset, Valley): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.
 - *Q9 Mr David Wainwright (Walsall, North): To ask the Prime Minister, if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 23rd February.

Nine of the 52 identical questions to Mrs Thatcher on this week's Order Paper.

though that danger is no longer there — adapted largely to political point-scoring. The Opposition manoeuvres are a counter-balance to the activities of a group of Tories suspected of being "orchestrated" from No 10 to come up with

THE TIMES DIARY



It is now possible to have one's arms and achievements run up by computer. Christopher Bayliss, a postgraduate student at Birmingham University, has written a computer programme which enables the user to type a heraldic description

of a shield, and within minutes see it on a colour television screen.

Bayliss wrote the programme as part of his M Sc course. He did not expect it to be of further use, but now he has had inquiries from heraldry societies in England and Scotland anxious to use it in teaching heraldry and designing new devices.

Magisterial wit

David Hopkin, whose appointment as metropolitan chief stipendiary magistrate was confirmed this week, will be a marked change from the austere, but always kind, Evelyn Russell, whom he succeeds on April 5. Hopkin is a quick wit — he described the duty solicitors' scheme as "legalized touting" — and does not suffer fools gladly. Of one solicitor he said: "I never see him appearing before me without telling myself I must count to ten, and I never get past four."

Staying on

Shanghai's last foreign Jewish refugee has died, and been taken to Hongkong for a quiet burial in the Jewish cemetery. While arranging the funeral of Max Leibowitch, Victor Zirnitsky, Israel's honorary consul-general in Hongkong and himself a Russian Jew who lived in Shanghai until

1946, also raised the possibility of evacuating Hannah Agre, the last-known Jew in China. Agre was born in Shanghai to Russian parents 71 years ago and now lives in Harbin. She refused to leave, and adamantly rejected a placement in Denmark that was obtained for her in 1963.

There were estimated to be 30,000 foreign Jews in China before 1949, two-thirds of them living in Shanghai. Apart from Agre all that are left are six non-practising "part-Jews" in Shanghai, and a community of some 200 Chinese-Jewish descendants of Silk Road traders in the ancient capital of Kaifeng, who no longer identify with Judaism.

Go for baroque

It infuriates some that, because of television advertising, they can no longer hear Mozart's K. 466 without thinking of almond slices, or Pachelbel's Canon without seeing an International Wool Secretariat sheep walking down carpeted corridors.

Yet Christopher Hogwood, who will perform Mozart at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday and whose record of the Pachelbel is currently high in *The Times* list of classical bestsellers, would like to see more seventeenth and eighteenth century snippets used in this way, provided only that they are played straight, not tarted up with added rhythm tracks or similar vulgarities.

Most modern jingles, he says, are a waste of time for musicians and composers, while there are "really stunning melodies" going begging in the baroque canon. First candidate: *Sommeil* from a



Are you here for Prison Book or to bail out your druggie daughter?

A strange silence from the Mersey scourge

Lady (Margaret) Simey, the chairman of Merseyside Police Authority, who yesterday told MPs that she had personal experience of police taking vengeance on people who lodge complaints, is not always as discreet as she was in withholding the name of the force involved.

After the Toxteth riots she was in some trouble for saying that young people in the area would be apathetic fools if they did not riot. She explained that she spoke from a sense of total exasperation that local representatives, such as she, were left powerless by the system forced on them.

It attracted a verbal slap from Margaret Thatcher, but Simey, long regarded as Toxteth's local police, was unrepentant. She ran on irrepressibly: Chief Constables like Merseyside's Kenneth Oxford could not understand women like her, an academic widow with a literary background. "His women are bunny girls," she said. "He's like all these new chief constables. He does not know how to behave."

Lady Simey, an unreconstructed Beveridge Socialist, is the widow of Lord Simey of Toxteth, a life peer and professor of social sciences at Liverpool University. She was born in Glasgow, 76

Weighty matters

The Queen is going pyx-ing, which is the sort of thing it could be useful for Scrabble players to know. Today, the Queen will make her first visit to the trial of the pyx.

The trial — of coinage of the realm, which is not found wanting as often as you might think — takes place before the Queen's Remembrancer at Goldsmiths' Hall. A jury (nowadays rigged in advance with chosen representatives of the Royal Mint) is instructed to test that coins are the correct weight. A verdict will not be returned until May.

The pyx is the box in which the specimen coins are placed, and the verb, which the Shorter Oxford recognizes, means to assay.

Running story

Louis Marks, the freelance television producer who claims that a television series on the Jews by Desmond Wilcox originated from one of his own ideas, now says that the BBC is to delay filming the series to allow him time to develop the idea himself elsewhere.

Bill Cotton, deputy managing director of BBC television, has been investigating the origins of the series on the Jews, Marks claims that he first presented the

idea to the BBC as long ago as 1977. Marks and Wilcox say that the BBC's internal investigation has now been completed. However, whereas Marks says that the BBC's offer to delay its own series is a "recognition of the fact that it was my initial idea", Wilcox says the inquiry has established that the idea is completely different and adds that it originated from a suggestion by Brian Wenham, now controller of BBC 2. Meanwhile the BBC still says that investigations are continuing.

EEC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Tuesday spent much time discussing what a scheme for greater political unity should be called if ever it became reality. Most favoured following the example of the Helsinki Final Act, and calling it the "European Act". Lord Carrington must have been at his duplicitous best explaining why this might be misconstrued in Britain.

Who's the mole?

There is to be an important new character in the life of *The Archers*, the BBC's never-ending story of country folk. He will be a young, handsome, and critical insider, the network editor for radio in Birmingham, may sack someone if he ever finds out who told him. Gallagher is vexed that no-one can die in the neck of the woods without the whole nation learning of it days before the event. It happened with both Doris Archer, and more recently Polly Perks, landlady of The Bull. Now Gallagher is threatening that anyone caught leaking future turns in the plot of *The Archers* could be dismissed. "Secrecy is essential", he thunders, "leaking is unprofessional." But then you know what gossips those villagers are.

PHS

Support for

From Miss Mai Sir, "Literature Applied" in (February 1981) serious art work almost entirely public subsidy" he thinking, thinking off.

The Arts Council literature department some £850,000 in the money to pu shops, to mag readings, to cre of people in acq both in writ important in, inive reading, bursaries too, I as well as the ol writers help at the growing p scheme known dence.

So far the mostly resided establishments. To expand the s any organization, ide a writer v pursue heris is the organiz for pupils, as it and critical insu literature. Ind writers may inc perature resie dispersed betw the writer has ti higher work too.

What is needed now yet more pu more viable id throughout the Arts Council's. I will hopefully e are new to it, rea too much to tr cease in the use books. and not



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A MODEST TONIC FOR RECOVERY

In twelve days time, with a thoughtfully pessimistic overture from the Prime Minister this week, the Chancellor will rise to tell us where we are and where he thinks we are going. Some of his sums have come right. The public sector borrowing requirement on which the Government now sets so much store is under control. But the recovery he predicted in last year's Budget has been slower than he hoped and is still uncertain. He dug a large hole with a deflation of £3bn and it was hoped it would be the foundation for a recovery led by private and public investment and exports. We supported this strategy. But Sir Geoffrey was more of a prisoner than anyone appreciated. He is freer today from an obsession with money supply targets, but the hopes for lower interest rates encouraging investment have been seriously diminished by world conditions, and especially American interest rates. Nor has there been the anticipated increase in public and private investment.

This, rather than British oil revenues, is the vital backcloth to the Budget, emphasising yet again the interdependence of the western economies. The effect of a drop in oil tax revenue, which Mrs Thatcher mentioned this week, is relatively small in terms of total government spending and taxation and is prone to large forecasting errors. The warning should be seen as a necessary caution against expectations that may have been raised too high.

But a recognition of the constraints on the Chancellor is not to argue for immobilism. It has emphasized the need to concentrate money on a variety of sophisticated measures that can within the limits of prudence restore the health of British industry. The Prime Minister was absolutely right to stress again that there can be no reflationary dash for growth which tries to solve Britain's economic problem by scattering pound notes from a helicopter, in the phrase of Milton Friedman. That would simply repeat all the past inflationary mistakes which have contributed to our difficulties.

There are two prime candidates for budgetary action. The first is the National Insurance Surcharge, which is a direct tax on jobs. Opponents of any cut in the surcharge say that employers will just pass it on to their workers as higher wages. There is no evidence to suggest that this is true. If it were, the outlook for Britain would be gloomy indeed. For it would effectively rule out any improvement in company profits, from whatever source, because this would be dissipated in higher pay settlements.

NIS has other objectionable characteristics. It is charged on the production of goods made in Britain but is not paid by imports. When goods are exported from the United Kingdom, the Value Added Tax which has been paid on them is refunded but the national insurance surcharge is not, thus making it a tax on our exports.

The Chancellor ought therefore to put a reduction in the insurance surcharge at the top of his list. Cutting it by two percentage points, as the Confederation of British Industry want, would cost about £1,500m. That would be a far better use of the money than giving new income tax cuts to boost consumption.

The second is to include some special help to encourage investment, not least in construction. Favourable consideration should also be given to ideas, such as those put forward by Mr Michael Gyllis, aimed at helping industry raise money on more attractive terms.

Anyone can draw up shopping lists of where the Chancellor should spend money at Budget time. But there has to be recognition that there is very limited room for manoeuvre. Judging just how much money he ought to give away and thus how large a borrowing requirement he ought to accept is particularly difficult this year. The economy has stopped declining but the signs of recovery are weak now, and likely to stay that way for most of the rest of the year. From the Government's point of view we are already coming perilously close to the next election. Looking at the balance of £2,000m and £3,000m ought to give the economy enough of a fillip to get it moving without imposing unacceptable strains on interest rates and monetary policy. The Chancellor ought to be thinking along these lines in the run up to March 9.

NOR LEAD, NOR POISON

Next month the European Parliament in Strasbourg will debate a motion set down by British Conservative members calling for all new cars sold in the Community from January 1, 1985, to be designed to take lead-free petrol. The debate which has been pursued so spiritedly in Britain since the publication of the Yellowlees letter of February 8 now moves to the EEC. Rightly so, in the sense that the community's existing regulations forbid member nations to change over to petrol completely free of lead. The battle has to be fought and won there before Britain can implement such a change, and by pointing this out in a recent statement, Mrs Thatcher virtually invited the members of her party who tabled the Strasbourg motion to try their luck there. She should tell them all to support the move. But the regulations do not prevent a country from committing itself to making the change eventually, and Germany has already done so.

The claims and counter claims made in recent weeks have not greatly affected the balance of apparent risks. The evidence of substantial damage to children from lead even at the low concentrations remains persuasive though not conclusive. There is still doubt about the share of blame due to lead from car exhausts, as distinct from other sources like industrial emissions, old paint and lead pipes. (It would be a dangerous error to let the furore over petrol obscure the role of other sources—the last in particular, since a 1977 national study showed that 9 per cent of households had lead concentrations in their tapwater exceeding the level recommended by World Health Organization, a level twice as high as a limit proposed by the EEC.) But it is clear that the possibility of significant damage is great enough to justify maximum controls attainable without prohibitive cost.

The exact cost has been strongly disputed in our columns and elsewhere. Attempts have been made to show that a ban would actually save fuel and money, though the central problem of getting equal performance from an equal quantity of oil without extra refining costs is a hard one to get round. But it is unnecessary to go so far. Even on official estimates, the cost is not excessive. It is predicted that improvements in design may double efficiency of fuel use by the end of the century; a mere step or two towards that objective would amply cancel out the entire cost of eliminating lead.

Support for literature

Bryan Appleyard can rest (nearly) assured that no scheme that can show itself able successfully to encourage any group in the community to benefit from the art of literature will fail for lack of Arts Council support. Yours faithfully, MARGHERITA LASKI, Chairman of the Literature Panel, Arts Council of Great Britain (Literature Department), 9 Long Acre, WC2, February 15.

University courses

From Professor Gareth L. Williams. Sir, The apologetic attitude of some vice-chancellors about subjects other than science and technology really is unnecessary except as a sop to the ill-informed prejudices of politicians. Science and technology account for a proportion of new entrants to degree-level courses in Britain that is higher than any other major OECD country. (This is also the case if technology is considered separately.) Obviously, there are many ways international statistics can be manipulated, and comparisons are treacherous as well as odious. But no classification is possible to support any claim that, compared with other countries, our resources are devoted disproportionately to non-vocational higher education or to areas such as social sciences and the humanities. The countries with significantly higher proportions than us of students and graduates in sciences and technology are those of Eastern Europe which, at the moment, does not seem to be a strong recommendation. There are many things wrong with British higher education in relation to our economic needs, but inadequate emphasis on science and technology is not one of them.

One of them is excessive specialisation. While there is little

evidence that we are deficient in specialist scientific and technological skills, there is reason to believe that our management and marketing performance is inadequate. Scientists and engineers with language skills and an understanding of the social and cultural climate in which they are working would almost certainly help. But to achieve this we need first a reform of the A-level examination. This is something that successive governments have neglected and which vested interests in many universities have consistently refused to undertake.

Yours sincerely, GARETH L. WILLIAMS, Professor of Educational Planning, University of Lancaster, Department of Educational Research, Cartmel College, Bailrigg, Lancaster.

State of art market

From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd. Sir, I note with interest your article by Frances Gibb (February 19) regarding the closure by Messrs Sotheby's of the Belvedere room and also the heavy pruning of their various outposts, notably New York. I am concerned that their chief executive, Mr Llewellyn, blames the state of the art market for their present difficulties. May I suggest that it is not the art market's fault but their own "Napoleonic" expansion, partially financed by the revenue from the buyers' premium that is causing their problems? Sotheby's are only a part of the art market, not the whole of it.

Yours sincerely, CHARLES B. LEE, President, The British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd, 20 Rutland Gate, SW7, February 19.

Bolder loans for small business

From Mr L. Lee. Sir, The Government's loan guarantee scheme to help small business has been a considerable success. As a member of a European association of popular credit banks we at the Co-operative Bank were able initially to draw on our colleagues' experience and back the idea when bigger British banks hesitated. We were also encouraged to offer the loans at a lower interest rate than any other United Kingdom clearing bank, and that remains the case despite recent reductions by competitors. As a result, our managers up and down the country have become vividly aware of the interest the scheme is generating among small businesses.

But we are aware equally that the scheme is only a beginning and that it needs to be considerably expanded if it is to achieve its full potential as an aid to small business growth.

First of all, the limit under the scheme should be raised from £75,000 to £250,000. It is a curiosity that we in Britain tend to talk of small business, whereas, in mainland Europe, the unit is "small and medium-sized enterprises" and a £250,000 upper limit would be logical.

Furthermore, the Government premium of 3 per cent is too high. Experience in other countries suggests 1 per cent would be enough in a mature scheme, so a reduction at least to 2 per cent would be an encouragement to enterprise which should not undermine the financial basis of the scheme.

Yours faithfully, L. LEE, Co-operative Bank Limited, P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, February 17.

Taxation and inflation

From Mr P. E. Crutwell. Sir, It seems generally thought that the Chancellor may make some reduction in direct taxation, but is also likely to increase duties on petrol, drink, tobacco, etc.

In view of the effect on the cost of living, it is difficult to see how this policy—to which Sir Geoffrey seems permanently wedded—contributes to the priority of reducing inflation. And the unemployed and pensioners who pay no income tax will be further squeezed.

Yours faithfully, P. E. CRUTWELL, Burton Court, Brompton Ralph, Taunton, Somerset.

Mental health reform

From Mr Malcolm Hurwitz. Sir, If the case put by Dr D. Tidmarsh of Broadmoor Hospital (February 19) for restricting the right of mental patients to sue for negligence is the strongest that can be made, then those who oppose that restriction ought to be home and dry.

Dr Tidmarsh mentions three patients who killed relatives before they were admitted to hospital and then says that "it is at least possible that one factor common to these cases" is the fear by the psychiatric services of complaints and litigation. He further "assumes" that the Mental Health Act (Amendment) Bill "will lead to further tragedies of the kind described above". This sort of speculation is no basis on which to found the removal of the right of a citizen to sue for negligence.

The fears of the psychiatric services are quite unjustified when considered in the light of the existing law and the practical difficulties facing mental patients. A patient is virtually impossible because legal aid is not available for prosecutions by individuals. If the case were taken over by the police the evidence would be objectively considered by the legal department of the police force concerned.

A civil action by a patient would, in the vast majority of cases, require legal aid and in order to obtain this the patient would have to satisfy the legal aid committee of the Law Society that there were reasonable grounds for bringing proceedings. The evidence necessary to discharge this burden would have to be collected by a patient detained in a hospital and most of the witnesses readily available to him would be other patients.

The High Court already has power to restrain any proceedings which are frivolous or vexatious but it requires proof of this and does not assume it simply because a litigant is ill. The number of applications to the High Court by patients asking for leave to commence proceedings under the Mental Health Act, 1959, is four or five a year and it is disconcerting to say the least, that efforts to remove the stigma of mental illness by placing patients as nearly as possible in the same position as physically ill patients should be the subject of a rearguard action by members of the psychiatric services.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM HURWITZ, (Legal Member, Mental Health Review Tribunal), 51 Southdown Road, Southdown, Middlesex.

Cost-effective local government

From the Leader of West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council. Sir, There is a rumour that the Government are again contemplating interference with the structure of local government. The six metropolitan counties have been singled out for special mention as prime candidates for removal.

I have the honour to be the Leader of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council. With my colleagues we have been convinced of the necessity for an elected council which could take an overview of the problems of these conurbations. The report of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's royal commission, the Labour Government in 1970, and the Conservative Government in 1972 all came to the conclusion that such bodies were essential.

Since their creation they have been the victims of constant harassment by successive governments. Their functions and very existence has been under constant review. They control the police only at one remove through the police committee. They control public transport at one remove through a passenger transport executive and through British Rail. Their planning functions have been eroded. The network of quangos which has been established to carry out functions which ought properly to have been integrated with their functions—urban development corporations, partnerships teams and the like. These quangos have been set at quite unreasonably low levels (even when four out of the six

metropolitan county councils were controlled by Conservative majorities) and they have been largely above target.

Their financial allocations from the Department of the Environment do not even take into account the spending they are authorised to make by other government departments. Capital finance available to my own county council for transportation purposes is now 25 per cent of its value in real terms six years ago.

The most effective step to make local government more cost-effective and accountable would be to lift some of these constraints and not to strengthen them. Any piecemeal tinkering with local government would be very expensive. Functions such as police, fire, public transport, strategic planning and highways would be transferred either to quangos or to non-accountable bureaucrats or to ineffective joint authority committees. If metropolitan counties were swept away, such a move would only be a costly interim measure which would do no more than ensure the need for a further wholesale reorganisation of local government in the near future.

If change is to take place then it should be done in the total context of the financing of local government and the re-examination of its relationship with central government. Increasing interference by central government in local affairs on an ad hoc and unplanned basis is expensive and counter-productive in the extreme.

Yours sincerely, JOHN GUNNELL, West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council, County Hall, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, February 18.

Canada's Constitution

From Sir Derek Walker-Smith, QC, MP for Hertfordshire East (Conservative). Sir, In his letter of February 22 Mr Maxwell-Hyslop seeks to defend the advice which he gave on the second reading of the Canada Bill to enact it without delay with its proposed Canadian Constitution and to leave subsequent questions about its interpretation and validity to the courts of Canada.

The danger of such a position is a real one: the possibility of a conflict between an instrument valid in English law as the product of the sovereignty of Parliament, on the one hand, and the advice of the courts, on the other, as to the validity of the instrument.

If the Canadian courts were to conclude, as is submitted by Quebec, that the requisite degree of consent was not forthcoming, it seems to me clear that they would not, as custodians of the Constitution and its principles, sanction or endorse a "colonisation" even though effected by the British Parliament, which failed in this fundamental respect.

Such is the undesirable position which may arise on one possible outcome of the exercise by the Canadian courts of their jurisdiction, but it need not arise, since a short delay can remove the danger, either by way of the court's rejection of the Quebec case, or, if that case succeeds, by an opportunity for reconsideration by both British and Canadian Parliaments in order to bring their proposals into line with constitutional propriety and due regard to the findings of the courts.

So small a delay for so great a gain is surely not much to ask. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, DEREK WALKER-SMITH, House of Commons.

Antiquities Bill

From Mr Charles Sparrow, QC. Sir, Readers of Mr Farthing's letter impugning the Antiquities Bill (February 11) might care to know that at a recent general meeting of the Council for British Archaeology, that body passed a resolution welcoming the introduction of the Bill and fervently hoping that it would pass into law. On that occasion, your correspondent Mr Farthing found one of a dissentient minority of two.

During the debate on second reading in the House of Lords, the Bill was supported by all speakers and unanimously by Lord Widdowson, on behalf of the Trustees of the British Museum, and by Lord Elwyn-Jones, formerly Lord Chancellor. Mr Farthing's detection in the Bill of language from the Middle Ages is hardly perceptible. That is a fair description of the existing law of treasure trove, which this Bill seeks to reform. As Lord Elwyn-Jones said in the House of Lords, "this Bill is a 'saw'". That is why the Antiquities Bill is needed.

Questions for the Pope

From Mr John Wright. Sir, One of the great benefits of television is that it brings into our living rooms public figures of national and international importance and submits them to courteous but firm questioning by experienced and well briefed interviewers on their law and policies. It creates the feeling that we are discussing questions of public interest with them personally, with the advantage of asking by proxy those important supplementary questions which we ourselves might only have thought of afterwards.

This is now a fundamental part of the democracy of church and state in this country and virtually everyone of importance, not excepting the Heir to the Throne, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prime Minister, is prepared to explain and justify his or her views in this way to the general public.

Can we hope that at some time during his visit the Pope will take

findings of the Canadian courts, but it would be still less appropriate to assume in advance an adverse finding. After all, there are over 50 pages of submission signed by three learned Professors of Quebec. Neither in his letter nor in his speech in the House did Mr Maxwell-Hyslop deal with this case or indeed claim to have studied it, but it will be closely studied by the Canadian courts and not just as a technical background of English statute law but in the light of the constitutional convention embodying the federal-provincial relationship which is the heart of the Constitution.

If the Canadian courts were to conclude, as is submitted by Quebec, that the requisite degree of consent was not forthcoming, it seems to me clear that they would not, as custodians of the Constitution and its principles, sanction or endorse a "colonisation" even though effected by the British Parliament, which failed in this fundamental respect.

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So small a delay for so great a gain is surely not much to ask. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, DEREK WALKER-SMITH, House of Commons.

Antiquities Bill

The fine of £500 mentioned by Mr Farthing is, of course, a maximum. Many informed people regard that as a lenient limitation in a measure which might have to deal with the misappropriation of a hoard of "ancient coins" worth, quite possibly, £500,000. When complaining of the Bill's time limit for the reporting of finds, Mr Farthing might have noticed the existing law: As matters stand, the law expects a finder to report treasure trove forthwith. And that is so even though, as the Court of Appeal has ruled, an apparent gold or silver coin will be treasure trove only if it contains a "substantial" amount of the metal, whatever that may mean.

On these matters, there is no difference of principle between the Bill and the present law. Nor should there be. The Bill simply introduces precision of detail and some sanction against Mr Farthing's "dubious finder". I am, Sir, your obedient servant, CHARLES SPARROW, Honorary Legal Adviser, Council for British Archaeology, 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Questions for the Pope

part in this kind of friendly and informal discussion in which the difficulties caused by some of his Church's policies can be raised? There are several fundamental questions of principle which at present form a barrier between the Roman Catholic and Protestant communities: for example, whether priests must be male and celibate, and of course the question of our attitudes to contraception in view of the problems of excessive population growth.

There is a great deal of affection and respect here for an outstanding and immensely influential world figure of great courage, but he sometimes seems rather remote, and many of us wonder how much he is exposed, if at all, to the arguments against some of the views he has stated publicly.

Yours faithfully, JOHN WRIGHT, Welbys Farmhouse, Cuckham Road, West Sussex, February 17.

Concern for Polish academic

From Professor Sir Alfred Ager, FBA, and others. Sir, The life of Dr Jan Jozef Lipski is in danger. Jan Jozef Lipski is one of the many Poles recently imprisoned by the military authorities in Warsaw. He would already have faced summary trial by a military court were he not a refugee.

Dr Jan Jozef Lipski is very well known in his country, and has many friends in the West, being a representative of the best qualities of the modern Polish intellectual community. A soldier of the Home Army and participant in the Warsaw uprising in his teens, a distinguished historian and literary critic in his professional life and an unrelenting fighter for democracy for the last three decades, Lipski was a co-founder of the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR) and a leading figure in Solidarity.

Recently, Dr Lipski has suffered two successive heart attacks following a long record of debilitating heart valves. He has been called urgently for extensive examination and treatment to London, where three years ago he underwent an operation for the exchange of heart valves by the eminent surgeon, Dr Mehdi Yacoub.

Response to this call to treatment has been prevented by Dr Lipski's detention. These circumstances engender the most serious fears for Dr Lipski's life and we appeal to the Red Cross, to Amnesty International and to all people of good will to demand that Dr Lipski be immediately permitted to leave Poland for treatment in his own country. We also appeal to Poland's present military rulers, who have asserted that they do not wish to risk human lives, for the release of Dr Lipski.

His life is the life of every individual, is of ultimate importance for everybody who stands for human rights.

Yours etc, A. AGER, RUSSELL BULL, RICHARD CORBRIDGE, ANNE CROFT-WATSON, D. M. DAVIES, P. J. D. WILSON, P. O. WOLF, W. WOLF, NORMAN DAVIES, STEPHEN DAVIES, A. M. DAVIES, ANTHONY POLANSKY, MARGARET L. JONES, J. K. JONES, STEPHEN L. JONES, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, Houghton Street, WC2, February 19.

Enduring Latin

From the Secretary of the British Academy. Sir, Help is already on the way for Dr Michael Leach (February 20). Two fascicles of the British Academy's Dictionary of Medieval Latin have already carried it to the end of the formidable letter C. The fascicle, D-E, is scheduled for publication next year. All Dr Leach has to do is to make his order for these and further volumes which will appear regularly thereafter. In the meantime Mr Latham's Medieval Latin Wordlist, much enlarged and revised, is available in a new edition.

In order to restrain costs the most up-to-date technology is being applied to the production of future volumes. This will also reduce the gaps between the appearance of successive parts. I am, Sir, etc, JOHN CARSWELL, The British Academy, Burlington House, W10, February 20.

Passing judgment

From Mr Peter Frank. Sir, I am delighted with the effect of the baggage handlers' dispute at London Airport. On Sunday I arrived by Swiss Air from Geneva at 18.05 and had passed through Customs by 18.20. The remedy is obvious. Yours faithfully, PETER FRANK, 72 Exbury Square, W1, February 22.

Track record

From Mr P. K. Davis. Sir, On the day of the publication of Lord McCarthy's report it is not somewhat ironic that at the top of The Times's list of best-selling books appears "Great Railway Journeys of the World"? Yours faithfully, P. K. DAVIS, 9 St Clare Street, Minorities, E.C.3, February 17.

Sizable error

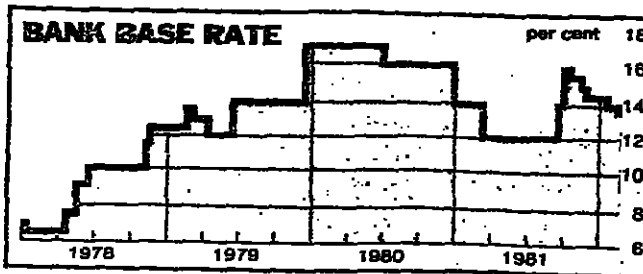
From Mrs Ann Hall. Sir, I should like to think that the word "enormity" used to describe the Barbican Centre in today's issue (February 23) referred to the £153m cost of the wretched thing, but I fear that your staff reporter believed that it meant "vastness" rather than "monstrous wickedness or crime". Yours faithfully, ANN HALL, 24 Newton Road, Bayswater, W2, February 23.

Frank Sir Christopher Lawrence

Jones. Sir, In today's Times Diary (February 22) it is noted that, prior to Mr Chirac dining at the Intercontinental Hotel, "the receptionist has been warned". Do you not think she would perform her duties better at room temperature? Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE-JONES, 11 Wood House, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire, February 22.

BUSINESS NEWS

Will the fall continue?



Base rates fell by 1/2 per cent to 13% per cent yesterday, continuing the steady decline since the middle of last October. After peaking at 16 per cent at the beginning of October, base rates have since fallen by 1/2 per cent a month. Although yesterday's move was judged premature by some, there is optimism that the decline will continue.

N Sea oil cheaper

Further cuts of at least \$2 and possibly \$4 a barrel in the price of North Sea oil are now widely regarded as inevitable in the oil industry. They are likely to push petrol prices a few pence lower, and deprive the fall in oil prices has prompted speculation that the Government's planned flotation of shares in the British National Oil Corporation later this year may have to be postponed.

Ansbacher rights issue

Henry Ansbacher, the small London issuing house, announced a long-awaited rights issue for £8.6m on the basis of 9 for 10, a bid for Seacore and a big restructuring of its shareholders. This gives the Touche Renmant Group a 20 per cent stake in Ansbachers, and leads to a widening of the financial services offered. It raises the authorized share capital from £5m to £15m. The shares fell 1p to 17 1/2p.

Unit trusts do well

Unit trusts had a good month during January with total sales up nearly £2m on the previous month at £57.5m. But the number of investors cashing in rose slightly from £23.6m in December to £28.3m in January, leaving net new investment for the month at £29.2m, about £2.3m down on December. Three new funds launched in January were: Bishopsgate Progressive Beckman International Capital Accumulation Unit Trust, Britannia Hong Kong Performance Trust and National Westminster Energy Trust.

Britons not the top strikers

The myth that Britain has been particularly strike-prone in recent years is disproved in a new article in the Department of Employment's Gazette, which shows that Britain continues to occupy a mid-ranking position in the international strikes league table. Between 1976 and 1980 an average of 566 working days a year were lost in Britain for every 1,000 workers, equivalent to just over half a working day per employee. Out of 17 industrial countries, six had higher strike rates than this, led by Spain (1,749), Italy (1,174), and Ireland (1,064). Ten other countries had lower rates, the best records being held by the Netherlands (30), Norway (42), Japan (43) and Germany (52). The provisional number of days lost in Britain through strikes last month was 449,000, rather higher than the 350,000 a month averaged during 1981.

MARKET SUMMARY

Jobbers run tight books

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 552.6 down 6.4
FT 100 66.39 down 0.41
FT all-share 320.55 down 4.12
Bargains 20,100

One of the big five jobbing firms, Wedd, Deacons, has said yesterday that it would no longer make a market in the shares of Beechams. Wedd's is pulling out of the chemical stock because it says it is "over-jobs". It underlines the stock-jobbers' current needs to make a thorough review of where they make their money.

Most jobbers are now running much tighter books to ensure they are not caught again by the type of sharp falls which occurred in September 1981. Withdrawal from Beechams goes along with Wedd's decision to disband its leadership and put the individual stocks back in their sector. It will also release one of the partners to look after the financial futures market.

The stock market had a dull day in front of today's ICI figures, together with the debut of

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,684.02, down 50.51
Hongkong: Hang Seng index 1,267.12, up 11.79.

COMMODITIES

Cocoa futures rose yesterday to their highest traded level of the week, representing an upswing from Monday's low of near-March of £1,192 against Monday's low of £1,158, dealers said.

TODAY

Mr Tony Benn, MP, attends launch of the film, "Whose Progress?", on the effects of micro-technology. City seminar on problems of foreign banks in London. Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, opens a new financial planning service. Energy trends: new vehicle registrations in January.

Amersham International and third-quarter results from Plessey. After being down 9.1 at midday the FT Index recovered slightly to close down 6.4 at 552.6, a foreign tail of 15.6.

As sterling slipped in foreign exchanges there were falls in gilts, which had initially been marked up on the cut in bank base rates, with long ending 8 1/2% and short dates unchanged or 1/2% easier.

The depressed state of the equity market comes with Amersham International's debut today. More than 90 per cent of employees took up the Government's offer of £25m worth of free shares in the company.

The Stock Exchange Council is opening the trading floor 10 minutes early to allow brokers to form an orderly queue to do business in the 24-hours over-subscribed issue, and estimates remain unchanged that it will open at a 30c premium over the 142p issue price.

In the oil sector, where gloom over the world glut has hit prices, Lasso shed 10p to 274p on reports that it had a dry well in the Shirley field.

Garoth David

CURRENCIES

Base rate cuts and North Sea oil revenue worries depressed the pound to \$1.6220 at one stage, prompting some Bank of England intervention. American buyers produced a late rally.

Sterling \$1.6300 down 15 points
DM 90.8 down 0.4
DM 4.3250
Yen 101.00
Yen 428.50

New York: \$1.8357
Dollar Index 112.5 unchanged
DM 2.3635 down 90 points
Gold \$383.75 up \$2.25
New York: \$368.00

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates eased. The Bank of England bought £295m of bills for repurchase by the houses on Wednesday. The shortage was finally forecast at £350m.

Banks' base rate cut eases pressure on industry

High Street banks cut the cost of borrowing yesterday with a 1/2 point drop in base rates to 13 1/2 per cent. The move will help ease the pressure on industry, where top-quality borrowers will now be paying 14 1/2 per cent on their overdrafts. Overdrafts for private borrowers will also come down to between 15 1/2 to 18 1/2 per cent. The move should soon lead to cheaper home loans from the building societies.

Although Barclays led the way yesterday, and was soon followed by other big clearing banks, National Westminster was the only

one to top its mortgage rate, which goes down from 15 to 14 1/2 per cent. The big clearers have also lowered their deposit rates to 5 1/2 per cent to 11 per cent. Barclays, which had been offering savers 1/2 per cent more than the others, came into line with a 1 per cent cut.

A drop in base rates has been expected following the dip in prime rates in the United States after last week's encouraging American money supply figures, and the easing of domestic money market rates this week. Base rates are now at their

lowest level since last September, when they moved up sharply from 12 to 14 per cent. But the timing of yesterday's move still took the markets slightly by surprise, as technical factors were making for fairly tight conditions in short-term money rates. With the key seven-day interbank rate at 14 1/2 per cent, the banks have little room for manoeuvre should rates start to firm again.

However, the City believes that the Government is keen to see interest rates continue falling to help industry out of the recession.

Barclays said yesterday

that it expected the downward trend of the last few months to continue and interest rates could be down to 11 to 12 per cent by the end of the year.

Sterling weakened on foreign exchange markets yesterday, falling at one stage to \$1.6220. But, with the help of intervention by the Bank, it bounced back to close 15 points down at \$1.6300.

There is speculation that, providing the forthcoming Budget is well received, the banks could be able to lower their base rates by a further 1/2 per cent after the Budget.

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Borrowing becomes cheaper, but markets remain gloomy

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

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Hoover in record £31m loss

By Kevin Page

Hoover, one of Britain's largest domestic appliance manufacturers, yesterday reported a £30.97m loss for 1981. Redundancies and closure costs of £17.2m were largely to blame for the record loss, although the recession and cheap imports of washing machines from Italy and Eastern Europe also played a part.

Hoover now makes vacuum cleaners only at Cambuslang near Glasgow.

Hoover reduced the United Kingdom labour force over the year from 10,224 to 6,854. These redundancies cost the company £13.5m, the bulk of it falling in the last three months of 1981. Shareholders also suffer since there is no dividend payment.

Sales fell from £206.7m to £201.1m and the trading loss totalled £9.1m.

The stock market was relieved all the redundancy costs had been included in the 1981 figures rather than being spread further into this year. Hoover's A shares fell initially from 55p to 85p but recovered to close at 89p.

Can Hoover claw its way back? Page 15

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Lonrho to seek expansion cash

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho, the international trading company which is preparing a second takeover bid for the House of Fraser stores group, yesterday told shareholders it wants to raise its borrowing power by 50 per cent, enabling its debts to be almost three times what they are now.

In a separate letter to its shareholders accompanying the annual report, Lonrho says that an increase in the group's borrowing power is necessary to allow for future expansion and development.

Mr Paul Spicer, a director, said last night: "I'm told this is just bringing us into line with other companies."

But the move could well meet resistance from Lonrho's largest institutional shareholder, Gulf Fisheries, which is backed by the Kuwait Royal Family and has around 15 per cent of the equity. Gulf has already challenged Lonrho once.

It failed to block a move by the group headed by Mr Rowland "Tiny" Rowland to increase the number of shares it had more than a year ago.

A special resolution is needed to increase the borrowings which requires a 75 per cent majority of the votes cast. The Lonrho directors are backing the move with their combined 17 per cent of the votes.

Lonrho want to revise its

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THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP

announces that
on and after

25th February, 1982

the following annual rates
will apply

Base Rate . . 13½%
(Previously 14 %)

Deposit Rate (basic) 11%
(Previously 12 %)

**The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation**

**The British Bank
of the Middle East**

**Mercantile Bank Limited
Antony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.**

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Ratio	Yield %
124 100	ABU Hldgs 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—	—	—
75 62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	—
51 33	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	+1	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5	—
205 187	Bardon Hill	201	-2	9.7	4.8	9.8	11.9	—
104 70	Deborah Services	70	-1	6.0	8.6	3.5	6.6	—
131 97	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.9	11.8	24.3	—
83 39	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	8.1	—
78 46	George Blair	51	—	—	—	—	—	—
102 93	Ind. Pref. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3	—
106 100	Isis Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8	—	—	—
113 94	Jackson Group	96	—	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8	—
130 108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—
334 250	Robert Jenkins	250	-2	31.2	12.5	3.5	8.8	—
59 51	Servotronics "A"	59	—	5.3	9.0	9.6	8.4	—
222 160	Torday & Carlisle	160	-1	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—
15 10	Twinklark Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—	—
80 66	Twinklark 15% ULS	78	—	15.0	19.2	—	—	—
44 25	Unilock Holdings	25	-1	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—
103 73	Walter Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8	—
263 212	W. S. Yeates	228	—	13.1	5.7	4.3	8.8	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Ansbacher finds a future in the past

Its model
is in the
18th century

Fascinating though the restructuring of Henry Ansbacher has been as an on-going City saga, the real story is the bank's policy for the future (Sally White writes).

It intends to be an old-fashioned merchant bank in the 18th century mould that is offering trade-related services on an international basis. This is the way Lord Kissin wanted to take Guinness, and the way that in their various styles Mercantile House, Mills & Allen and even Exco are going.

"Intelligence and know-how related things," is how Mr Charles Williams, chief executive, describes the bias of service to be offered, as opposed to banking activities that require large amounts of capital.

His immediate background was as chief of the Price Commission. A better clue to his inspiration comes from previous jobs. He is long in the City experience. The Bank of London and Montreal, Eurofinance SA and then Barings.

Mr Williams was brought into Ansbacher by the commodity and metal grading group, Lissauer of the United States. Currently Lissauer owns 49 per cent of Ansbacher. It wanted to develop the bank so that it could take full advantage of Lissauer's world-wide trading business and contacts.

Part of the complicated series of deals announced yesterday sales

down the Lissauer stake to 22 per cent and it also scales down another large shareholder, Grand Metropolitan, from 18 per cent to 7 per cent. This is to bring in a big financial partner for Ansbacher (to complement the trade backing from Lissauer).

Touche Remnant, the investment trust group, liked this method of diversifying its interests. Apart from obtaining a 20 per cent stake, by taking up the Lissauer and Grand Met. rights, it is putting in its deputy chairman, Mr David LeRoy-Lewis, to become chairman of Ansbacher.

Mr LeRoy-Lewis has had a hand in other City restructurings recently, having become chairman of London money-brokers R. P. Martin after the merger with Bierbaum, the German group.

The bond mystery

Bond market operators are as baffled by their own activities at the moment as is everyone else (Michael Prest writes). New issues this week have reached a cumulative £1,500m (£824m), still they come thick and fast. But the wonder is that so far the impact on prices and yields has been slight.

Given the hindsight of the last three days — which is about as long as the market can look either backwards or forwards in present conditions of high exchange and interest rate volatility — it is not surprising that borrowers should have taken advantage of the modest



LeRoy-Lewis: Ansbacher chief

optimism afforded by easier American money supply and interest rate figures.

What has caught the market off balance is the apparently insatiable demand for good quality paper and the willingness of borrowers to offer continuing high coupons and yields.

Thus the World Bank, one of the very best credits, has returned for £250m at 15½ per cent. Nova Scotia, Australian Resources Development Bank and Burroughs carry 15.75, 13.5, and 15.75 per cent respectively.

On the corporate side, one possible reason for the demand is that interest and amortization payments are heavier than usual this month, placing more funds in the hands of portfolio managers.

Sweet talk by Rowntree

The men from Rowntree Mackintosh will today be putting their case to win over Huntley & Palmer shareholders (Margaret Pagano writes).

Whatever else they may have up their sleeve — apart from what promises to be a good set of results — it will be tough going to convince cynics in both camps that the bid makes sound commercial sense.

For it is evident that Rowntree shareholders themselves have been less than persuaded. If successful the bid will dilute earnings for a few years and is the sort of strategy promised last year.

In the short-term, the takeover, which will cost at least £27.4m cash straight off, will mean pumping into Huntley a considerable sum of money to generate its full potential. Profits of £20m are not impossible in a few years, but it will mean drastic pruning at Huntley's three factories. Forecasts for 1981 are still for some £7.5m.

But the market feels that Rowntree will not need to go any higher (despite Huntley's hopes for another 20p), and will probably succeed in making Huntley's famous brand names more profitable. Certainly, from Huntley's point of view, it would seem that a future with Rowntree is probably its best bet as it lacks the punch, and cash, to go it alone, there is also the possibility of an Office of Fair Trading referral.

INTERNATIONAL



HONGKONG

Mr John Brembridge, Hongkong's Financial Secretary, yesterday reported a budget surplus of £1,648m for the 1981-82 financial year, just ended, and described it as a success story in difficult times. He raised personal allowances from \$HK15,000 to \$HK20,000 which will cover an estimated 300,000 of the colony's 5 million Chinese. As an incentive for businessmen, Mr Brembridge announced an increase from 35 to 55 per cent tax allowance for plant and equipment purchases.

The Financial Secretary also announced that foreign currency deposits placed with licensed banks and deposit-taking companies would be exempt from interest tax. The tax on interest from Hongkong dollar deposits would also be cut to 10 per cent from 15 per cent, effective from today.

JAPAN

Japan will neither cut output of semi-conductors nor restrict exports to the United States despite the American's criticism, the Japan Electronic Industries Association said. Japanese industry has just reached about 70 per cent of the United States market share for the 64K RAM (Random Access Memory), the latest computer memory device, against 30 per cent by the United States firms.

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands had a foreign trade surplus of Gld 200m (£41.8m) in December compared with a Gld 2,000m surplus in November and a deficit of Gld 800m in December, 1980. For 1981 as a whole, Dutch trade showed a surplus of Gld 6,000m compared with a year-earlier deficit of Gld 5,300m.

MEXICO

The British Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is guaranteeing a £31m loan which N. M. Rothschild & Sons has provided for Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior SA of Mexico. Rothschild is acting on its own behalf and for a syndicate of banks, and the loan will help finance a £37m contract awarded to Darwin Instruments of Cambridge for the supply of equipment for technical education and research in Mexican training establishments.

CRODA INT

Call to reject takeover

Croda International is forecasting 1982 profits of £16m before tax in a hard hitting letter to shareholders strongly advising them to reject the 70p share takeover bid from Burmah.

The forecast profits, which would represent a 58 per cent increase over 1981, is to back up Croda's earlier promise of an 86 per cent rise in dividends to 10p gross in 1982.

Croda says that after tax of £6m, which will include about £2.5m advance corporation tax, the net dividend would be covered 1.35 times. Croda's merchant bank Warburg said that no calculations had been made of likely current cost earnings in 1982.

Croda tells shareholders that Burmah is financially weak but despite this may still raise its offer for Croda.

WEDGWOOD

Trading blues

An extremely pessimistic statement on world trading came from Sir Arthur Bryman, chairman of Wedgwood, yesterday despite buoyant monthly figures.

Even pre-tax profits, up 66 per cent to £6m in the period to January, failed to cheer and the group's shares fell 4½p to 75½p. Sales increase by £8m to £86m.

Sir Arthur stressed that there was still no firm evidence of any improvement in either international or domestic business. He said that to deep recession in the United States and European markets was continuing to cause concern.

Since the group, often held up as one of the best measures of British exports, has some 63 per cent of its total sales overseas, this can only be taken as further disappointing news. Predictions that trading will pick up in the second-half of 1982, Sir Arthur added, was no real comfort.

However, Wedgwood takes some hope from the trade reaction to a wide range of new products displayed at the spring exhibition. This, and improved production techniques, give a degree of optimism.

Interest charges dropped from £2.4m to £1.9m, through moving debt into foreign currencies. After tax, attributable profits are £3.7m against £2.2m.

Wedgwood made £6m last year and will comfortably beat this in 1982.

HARRISONS ME

Profits dip £3m

Harrisons Malaysian Estates, the plantation company 81 per cent owned by Harrisons & Crosfield, saw pre-tax profits for the half year to end-September fall by nearly £3m to £11m. The interim dividend was maintained at 3.5p gross. Earnings per share were 4.06p, against 5.09p.

The decline in profits was chiefly because of lower rubber and cocoa prices and a poor rubber crop. The adverse movement of the Malaysian dollar also affected the outcome, although the sterling price of rubber did not change much.

The directors say that results in the second and third quarters recovered to show a "substantial improvement". This year's figures will include an extraordinary item matching the £5m gained from last year's sale of a stake in Harrisons & Crosfield. Nevertheless, pre-tax profits are expected to be similar.

CARRINGTON

Cut in losses

Substantial rationalization, which will cost 10,000 jobs by the end of the year, has brought sharp cut in losses for textiles group Carrington Virella, almost halved at the pre-tax level to £4.3m in the year to December, against £8.3m.

The rationalization cost £12.5m in 1981 against £21.5m

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13½%
Barclays	13½%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	13½%
Midland Bank	13½%
Nat Westminster	13½%
TSB	13½%
Williams & Glyn's	13½%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 11.00%
£10,000 to £25,000 12.00%
£25,000 and over 12.50%

"I am confident that we shall maintain and improve on our record of success"

E. S. Margulies, Chairman.

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement

The diversity of the Group's operations has again been a source of strength in maintaining performance in a year of very demanding conditions.

Some of our businesses have been severely affected by recession within the United Kingdom and some of our main international trading activities have experienced difficult markets. But elsewhere there have been good trading opportunities, which the growing strength of our international organisation has enabled us to realise. Overall, the Group profit and market share have increased, a position which is not reflected in turnover due to sharply reduced commodity prices.

The results reflect the partial consolidation of British Sugar Corporation which, following the acquisition last year of 40 per cent of the equity, is treated as an associate company.

A total dividend for the year of 7.5p net per share is recommended — an increase of 15.4 per cent.

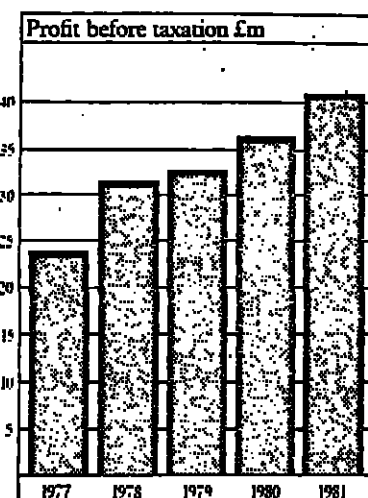
Over the years, S & W Berisford has become a highly diversified and balanced trading Group, with considerable financial strength, operating through many separate businesses in many countries.

Our strategic course in further developing the Group's activities is to draw on our skills and experience

and substantial financial resources in order to broaden and strengthen our existing mix of trading and processing businesses, and improve their individual performance. Thus, we intend, cautiously and deliberately, to deepen our involvement in trades where we are already established profitably, as well as to extend the range of materials in which we trade by moving into promising new areas. We also seek to strengthen our regional organisation in different parts of the world so as to improve our ability to source important raw materials or to service our customers internationally.

I am confident that we shall maintain and improve on our record of success, and continue to find profitable growth in the future.

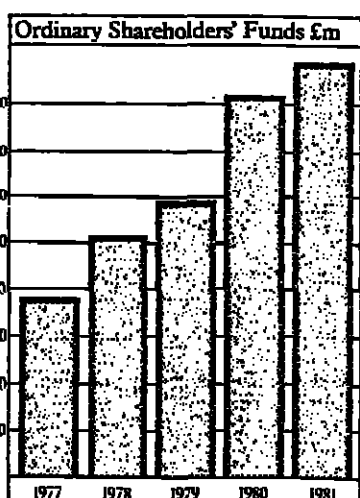
The major initiative pursued by the Group last year was our bid for British Sugar Corporation, as a result of which we acquired just over 40 per cent of the share capital. The results to date achieved by British Sugar fully justified the investment we made last year. Under the rules of the Takeover Code, although we may sell shares if we wish, we are inhibited from making any further investment until the summer of 1982 and during this period we will continue to keep the position under review.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	1981	1980
Year ended 30th September	£ million	£ million
Turnover	2,236.4	2,452.5
Profit before taxation	40.7	36.1
Ordinary Shareholders' earnings	30.2	27.1
Ordinary Dividend	12.6	10.2
Shareholders' Funds	179.0	163.3
Earnings per share	18.07p	18.69p*
Dividend per share (net)	7.50p	6.50p*
Dividend times covered	2.41	2.66

* Adjusted for capitalisation issue 1981



S&W Berisford

An international group of companies principally involved in the merchandising, processing and distribution of key raw materials.

Annual General Meeting
The Seventy-second Annual General Meeting of the company will be held at The Tower Hotel, St. Katharine's Way, London E1 on Tuesday, 16th March 1982 at 12 noon.
Annual Report 1981
Copies of the Annual Report, containing the Chairman's Statement in full and a Review of Operations for the year are available from The Secretary, S & W Berisford Limited, Berisford House, 50 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7QJ.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 14% to 13.5% p.a. with effect from the close of business on Thursday, 25th February 1982.

Other rates of interest are reduced as follows:

7-day-notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts — from 11.5% to 11% p.a.
Special Savings Plan — from 13.5% to 13% p.a.

The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of

Lloyds Bank International Limited
The National Bank of New Zealand Limited

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3 1RS.

TSB BASE RATE

With effect from the close of business on Thursday, 25th February, 1982 and until further notice TSB Base Rate will be 13½% per annum



TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Central Board,
P.O. Box 33, 3 Cophall Avenue, London EC2P 2AB

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Leicester leaps in regardless

Scott Durward, 46, chief of the Leicester, seventh largest building society, which yesterday introduced a clutch of concessions to anyone putting money into his society, learnt his trade selling cigarettes for Imperial and sweets for Rowntree. He thinks that most of his colleagues are still stuck in the sixties when the "movement" did not have to bother about competition from banks and national savings.



Scott Durward: unconventional

would like to be chairman of the Building Societies Association but "I have more important things to do". Anyone with £100 in a Leicester account can get a Leicestercard, a passport to cheap personal loans from Citibank, besides travellers' cheques and cheap holiday insurance. An exclusive deal has been done with Private Patients Plan. There is also a discount shopping scheme, and a possible 15 per cent off the price of a new car.

What price a tax Utopia?

A Britain free from a myriad of taxes sounds like a Utopia. But this is the aim of the campaign for "Unitax", a system whereby all taxes and duties would be replaced by a single levy on every form of energy.



"Good Heavens! The pre-Budget arguments have started early this year."

Divide and duel

Good news and bad news from Harry Feigen, general secretary of the Taxi Drivers Association. The bad news is that taxi drivers are after a five per cent increase this April to make up for ground lost since the 13 per cent increase last July. The good news is that he and his members are getting together a case for cab-sharing on certain routes, principally from Heathrow and the suburbs into town and back.

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Derek Kingsbury has been appointed group chief executive with effect from April 5 and chairman of the group subsidiaries Fairway Automation, Fairway Engineering, Fairway Hydraulics, Fairway Marine, Fairway Nuclear, Fairway Winches and Fairway Filtration. Mr George Uthlaut has been appointed managing director responsible for Esso Petroleum Company's exploration and production division. Mr David Clayman is to be appointed to the position of executive director with effect from March 1.



Mr Peter Goode, managing director of Hoover Ltd: attempting to fill the profits vacuum

After the rout - can Hoover claw its way back?

Hoover has been bumping along the floor for so many years that even a loss of £31m for 1981 drew only a mild response yesterday from the dwindling band of those who scrutinise the company's fortunes.

Indeed, judging by the gyrations of the share price during the day, the oft-prepared funeral rites for one of Britain's most famous, if ill-starred, companies must be deferred yet again. The hope, without any guarantee that it will be realised, is that having undergone drastic and prolonged surgery - during which the British workforce has been cut by 50 per cent over the past three years and production concentrated at Merthyr Tydfil and Cambuslang in Scotland - Hoover will become a leaner, fitter animal.

Some analysts yesterday were talking about the company breaking even this year and a profit as high as £15m for 1982.

However, the ravages of recent years must induce a good deal of caution. Basically Hoover has been paying the price of being first in the field.

Controlled by the Hoover Company of Ohio, which owns 73 per cent of the voting shares and 48 per cent of the non-voting stock of Hoover Ltd, the British company was persuaded by the Government in the post-war years to set up production in the depressed areas of South Wales and Scotland.

The venture was a moderate success in the Fifties and Sixties as the consumer boom created a demand for Hoover washing machines and floor cleaners. The company diversified into allied products like spin driers, irons, toasters, electric kettles and cooking ovens.

By 1973 Hoover was earning pre-tax profits of £21.3m and employing more than 16,000 in Britain at Merthyr Tydfil, Cambuslang and Perivale in West London, where it inhabited one of the most famous art deco industrial buildings in the country.

But by the early Seventies, the company's pre-eminence was challenged by cheap imports, particularly from Italy where Zanussi, Indesit and Candy proved their ability to undercut Hoover by producing white goods in bulk for both the domestic and export markets. European manufacturers of washing machines also moved into the British market and quickly picked up a 20 per cent share.

Electrolux, the Swedish multi-national, proved more efficient with sales per employee from its Luton factory, almost double those at Hoover. Last year Electrolux employed 5,000 against 10,000 at Hoover.

But it was not only foreign manufacturers who were more efficient. BSR's Goshin vacuum cleaners and GEC Hotpoint washing machines proved resilient during the recession, even though the overall market for domestic appliances slumped by 8 per cent from mid-1980 to the middle of last year.

Hoover began to show the strain during the second half of the 1970s, a period in which profits slumped every year from 1975's £20.4m to a £1.4m loss in 1980. Aggravating the problems of high priced products, weak marketing and cheap imports, were the labour troubles which bedevilled management at Merthyr Tydfil and Cambuslang, both of which are essentially company towns. Cambuslang was stopped for 10 weeks in 1974 by a wave of strikes against pay restraint. Further disruption hit production in 1975 and 1977.

The onset of the recession in the domestic appliance market during 1979 forced Hoover to lay off workers. Last year the British workforce was cut from 10,224 to 6,854. These redundancies cost Hoover £13.5m out of total rationalisation costs of £17.2m. Managing director Mr Peter Goode, who was appointed last August, clearly hopes that the huge provisions for 1981 will not spill over into this year and that the costs of slimming down the group will be a once and for all item in the balance sheet.

Hoover's finances could be given a boost by the redevelopment of part of the nine-acre Perivale site. The closure of Perivale as a manufacturing centre was announced last October. A statement on the future of the historic building is expected next week and this could include plans for redeveloping parts of the rear, possibly for a shopping complex or even a hotel.

The facade of Perivale will remain untouched because it is listed. Hoover has been advised by a panel of international survivors and hopes any redevelopment will be architecturally eye-pleasing as well as profitable. As yet it is unclear whether the company will develop the site itself.

Clearly, Mr Goode's main strategy after the past failures, is to go for a product-led recovery. Hoover's share of the total cleaner market is 33 per cent. But it has only a 17.6 per cent stake in the suction market. The new Sensortronic range is to be launched next month and Hoover claims the models will be the quietest and most efficient in Europe.

Hoover is to spend £2m on advertising the new models which will sell for between £50 and £120. Hoover is also for the first time fighting back against cheap imports by launching a new range of washing machines. Two of the models will sell for under £200, making them competitive with other products on the market.

The company is also setting out to grab a chunk of the £200m home security market. Thiefcheck, a kind of do-it-yourself anti-burglar kit, will shortly be launched at £140. The advertising claims the kit is sufficient to protect a three-bedroomed house. The product has been developed partly on the advice of ex-burglars approached by Hoover.

Despite the recession which hit the white goods market hard, Hoover still sells just under half of all upright vacuum cleaners sold in Britain and lost only a

fraction of the total market share last year. Mr Goode has a marketing background and is determined to fight the competition, not only on the traditional cleaner/washing machine front, but by launching new products backed by the Hoover name.

The difference between this strategy and other which have failed in the past, is that Mr Goode is prepared to pursue a more aggressive marketing and advertising stance while getting the pricing policy right.

It remains to be seen whether the new marketing strategy will enable Hoover to compete effectively, especially when the recession lifts. Even now there are signs that overall demand for domestic appliances is rising slightly. Sales in unseasonal January were slightly ahead.

The financial background is less than bright however. Borrowings are estimated to have risen from £15.6m a year ago to around £20m, compared with a market capitalisation of £18m. The advertising and promotional costs required to launch new products will bear down on profits in the short-term. The best Hoover can hope for this year is to break even, if all the provisions are indeed out of the way. And hanging over the group is the prospect that the American parent might attract a bid, either from old favourite Black and Decker, or from Japan. If the recovery is about to start, this could be a good time for a predator to strike.

Kevin Page

Reagan puts his money on enterprise zones

PERSPECTIVE: REVITALISING INNER-CITIES

By Bailey Morris



Donald Schaefer, Baltimore's popular Mayor has endorsed Reagan's programme: "Practical mayors live with the rules of the game."

programme now under the direction of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Generally, the legislation was supported by mayors and governors across America. At a time when federal support for the cities was shrinking, they viewed it as one of the last straws to grasp.

This was the message relayed to Mr Reagan at the White House by Mr Donald Schaefer, the popular mayor of Baltimore, Maryland, who has endorsed the programme enthusiastically. He has been highly critical of the President. "Practical mayors live with the rules of the game. We have high unemployment. I worry about jobs. That's why I am over here, working with the President on enterprise zones".

He has urged Mr Reagan to designate Baltimore as the first zone since the city has already launched a similar programme with the aid of local businesses and banks, in its Park Heights industrial area. This low income area north-west of Baltimore has high unemployment of up to 50 per cent among young black people, plenty of vacant land, but few businesses, Mr Schaefer said.

The problem with Park Heights, as with most depressed urban areas, is that businesses will not move in because of high crime rates and low profit potential. The zones are intended to reverse this pattern.

Critics contend, however, that the Reagan administration's plan, as presently constituted, will not solve the problems and may even create new ones. Public expectations for jobs and other economic benefits flowing from the programme are too high and could dissolve later into more social unrest.

Mr Ray Warren, assistant director of community development in Springfield, Massachusetts, is one of the doubters. "They plan on maybe 30 of these things of perhaps a square mile each, meaning the entire federal urban policy encompasses only 30 square miles", he said.

There is also strong opposition at state level to a provision in the Reagan plan requiring localities qualifying as zones to waive local property taxes. This added

loss of revenues cannot be borne by states and localities at a time when they are being pressed by the administration to shoulder even more fiscal responsibilities, officials said.

Some veteran city planners also fear that black leaders across the country will organize against the programme because of a provision allowing corporations in the zones to pay salaries below the minimum wage.

"This is a big issue in the black community. Black leaders believe the elimination of the minimum wage will result in breadwinners losing their jobs to teenagers", said Mr Robert Brandwein, president of the Boston-based Policy

and Management Associates, a private consulting firm. Mr Brandwein was hired by the administration to review existing enterprise zone proposals and write a report, including recommendations to correct the flaws. In this capacity he travelled to the United Kingdom to study the British zones.

Generally, Mr Brandwein found that the British experiment does not really apply to the United States because of big differences in both the problems to be corrected and the method of doing business.

In the United States, for example, property developers do not build big offices and plants until they have located a tenant, whereas in Britain it is a common practice to build the structure first and then look for a tenant, Mr Brandwein said.

He also encountered unique problems in the UK zones which do not necessarily apply in US localities. In the Dudley zone, for example, the big problem to be the high cost of developing a new building because of the difficulty in finding solid land in this coal-mining community. And UK corporations have tended to avoid Clydebank because it has developed a reputation as a tough union town, based on former experiences in the shipyards, Mr Brandwein said.

The UK models have provided examples, however, of problems which the United States should avoid and which Mr Brandwein outlined in his report to the Reagan administration. Should existing firms in the zones, for example, receive the same benefits as those moving into them? How can firms immediately outside the zones compete with businesses inside which are receiving cost advantages resulting from tax benefits and regulatory receipts?

These were the most pressing problems identified by Mr Brandwein.

Over the past 10 years - years in which the United States has launched numerous unsuccessful programmes to attract businesses to urban centres populated by minorities - two major problems have emerged which the zones may or may not correct, depending on how they are structured.

The most pressing problem is the lack of adequate venture capital available to small and medium-sized firms, the ones most likely to enter the zones. Bigger, well-financed companies are not likely to locate in zones since they have been fleeing inner cities for the past decade.

The Reagan administration's proposal includes some federal provided venture capital but there is no agreement yet on the amount of money or the means of distributing it. If the programme relies too heavily on tax incentives and too little on capital infusion, it is likely to fall in the opinion of city planners who note that entrepreneurs like to locate in zones need more than tax aid to start their businesses.

Business Editor
Interest rates move lower

A further half point off bank base rates may not matter much one way or the other in terms of monetary control. But after all the preaching on the need for caution in lowering interest rates, the authorities' action in giving the nod to lower interest rates after a single week of good United States money supply figures almost smacks of unseemly haste.

After all, looking at the domestic monetary situation, it is not as if the January figures signalled any obvious reason to lower interest rates. And sterling's performance on the foreign exchange markets show there must be some fear that the pound has been seasonally helped by the remittance of foreign currency holdings to meet tax payments.

That said, the authorities may have convinced themselves that United States rates are on the way down. They may well be looking for further cuts in other European interest rates too over the next few days now that the EMS realignment is out of the way.

Moreover, domestically it increasingly looks as if the Budget is going to place the emphasis on a fiscal policy that permits lower interest rates rather than very much more. Whether the authorities will allow themselves to be pushed too far on the interest rate front remains to be seen.

Oil Taxation Boxed in

If the Chancellor of the Exchequer is worried about what falling oil prices are doing to his expected North Sea revenues, as we now know he is, the tax implications of the downward pressure on oil prices are also worrying for industry. Any hopes companies have of wringing significant concessions on North Sea taxes out of the Treasury in next month's Budget (let alone the sweeping overhaul of the whole offshore oil fiscal regime that is so much needed) are now virtually non-existent. That is a shame, but hardly surprising.

Obviously, when the Government's total "take" from the North Sea proves to be less than originally anticipated, that must mean that the oil industry, as a whole, faces a smaller tax bill, since the two figures are only different sides of the same (large) coin. But what matters, at a time when oil companies' profits and revenues are being squeezed by the oil price decline, is the effective tax rate, not the absolute tax bill - and here the portents for the industry are poor.

The industry's problem is that the Chancellor has no room to alleviate the North Sea tax burden, even if he accepts that it is necessary. There is a very real chance that the industry's pet bogey, Special Petroleum Duty, which was introduced last year as a temporary expedient, will now be extended after June this year - even though the rate may be reduced from its present 20 per cent.

There will be changes in oil taxation in the Budget - for example new and more different definitions of how different accumulations of oil in individual field complexes are treated for tax purposes. But few of these changes will have revenue implications for several years or at least until after the next election.

Sir Geoffrey cannot really afford to have it any other way, even though the evidence that the tax regime is beginning to have an adverse impact on future North Sea developments is finally beginning to be accepted in Government circles.

The construction industry, like many other lobby groups trying to bend the ear of the Chancellor, has had to live with frustration for the past few years. The latest figures for new construction orders in 1981 might give ministers some small encouragement, but they do not alter the fundamental problems. The crisis in the industry has long passed the stage of scare stories about decaying sewers and crumbling buildings and reached the point where both unions and management, whether directly affected or not, agree that urgent remedial action is needed.

A marginal increase in new orders does not constitute an upward trend, but may simply be the result of several major projects coming on stream. Local authorities have underspent by about £700m in the past year, and have plenty of spare money for road renewal. That at least should be a priority for the coming year.

The most disappointing feature of the present recession has been the failure of the private sector to invest. But if the Government does not take the lead and set aside some public money for capital investment in roads, sewers and public works, the private sector will never be persuaded to do so.

Grindlays Bank p.l.c.
Interest Rates
Grindlays Bank Limited announces that its base rate for lending will change from 14% to 13½% with effect from 25th February 1982

The interest rates paid on call deposits will be:-
call deposits of £1,000 and over 11%
(call deposits of £300-£999 10%)

Rates of interest on fixed deposits of over \$5,000 will be quoted on request.
Enquiries: Please telephone 01-930 4611

Grindlays Bank p.l.c.
Head Office: 23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED

Brunner
Investment Trust PLC
Year ended 30th November 1981

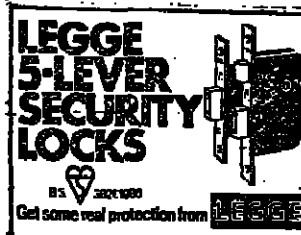
Dividend +9.1%
Net Asset Value per share

1 Year +5.5%
(FT-Actuaries All-Share Index + 2.6%)

10 Years +118.9%
(FT-Actuaries All-Share Index + 72.7%)

KBIM Managers: Kleinwort Benson Investment Management

Copies of the Annual Report are available from The Secretary, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB

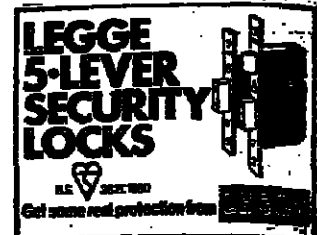


Stock Exchange Prices

Light selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 15. Dealings End, Feb 26. Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 2.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



1981/82 High Low Stock				1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company			
Price	Chg	Yield	P/E	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E	Price	Chg	Yield	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
SHIPPING																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
MINES																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
FINANCIAL TRUSTS																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
INSURANCE																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
PROPERTY																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
RUBBER																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
TEA																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
MISCELLANEOUS																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
RECENT ISSUES																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
RIGHTS ISSUES																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
Gold																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
Euro-\$ Deposits																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
Money Market Rates																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
Other Markets																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
Dollar Spot Rates																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
BREWERIES AND DISTILLERS																			
100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00

SPORT

GOLF

Floyd could tame Blue Monster yet again

From John Ballantine, Miami, Feb 24

Ray Floyd, who defends his title in the Doral Eastern Open here this week, has never come close to winning the Open or United States Open Championships. He did win the United States Masters at Augusta, Georgia, in 1976, and in 1980 he won the United States PGA title at Dayton, Ohio, beating Gary Player into second place; also he was joint runner-up with Don January in the same competition behind Dave Stockton in 1976.

Floyd, now in his 40th year, is what Americans call "a professional's professional". Not a complete world beater, perhaps, in the class of Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson or Johnny Miller, but a very great player who joined the Tour in 1963 and has since won 15 titles and nearly \$1m in prize money.

Last season, Floyd ended up second on the money list to the consistent Tom Kite with about \$200,000. And it was here on the "Blue Monster" course at the Doral Country Club that he won the first "leg" of a seasonal double.

In the previous year Floyd won this title by chipping into the hole to beat Nicklaus in dramatic fashion, and last year with a four round aggregate of 172 he beat David Graham and Keith Fergus into second place.

Greater things were to come, however. Floyd also won the 1981 PGA Championship in Jacksonville to pick up, in addition to the \$40,000 first prize, another \$100,000 that had been insured against anyone winning the two tournaments. Doral and the TPC in a row.

Floyd appears to be carrying too much weight, but at 6 ft 11 in he is capable of doing so, and on occasions he scores with inspirational skill in the most incredible manner. He is quite capable of winning here for a third time.

Nick Faldo, who had a hard time in the Los Angeles Open, is in the draw together with Seve Ballesteros after a run of five wins and several other British Ryder Cup players.

Faldo will be keen to demonstrate to Mark James and the others that he is now regular. United States professional over here. Although he feels tired after a run of five wins and several other British Ryder Cup players.

Graham Marsh and Greg Norman of Australia will attempt to break Taiwan's domination of the Hongkong Open golf championship starting today. Taiwan players have won six of the last seven, the second leg of the 10-nation Asian circuit.

Marsh, twice runner-up in the event, including last year when Taiwan's Chen Tien-ming beat him by one stroke, makes his challenge after winning the Australian Masters last year. Norman returns for the first time since his victory in 1979.

Treacy injured

John Treacy will miss the 3,000 metres at the European indoor championships in Milan on March 6 and 7 because of a slight knee injury but he will run in the world cross-country championship in Rome later next month.

POOL PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION
CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS
All dividends are subject to rescoring.

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20-a-1p Multi-TOPS share-out
TREBLE CHANCE
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22 Pts £23.70
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LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL
Another RECORD share-out
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There's never been a better time to win!
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SIX GOES A PENNY Treble Chance
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23 Pts £346.76
22 Pts £124.72
21 Pts £25.96
20 Pts £9.44
19 Pts £2.32

SIX GOES A PENNY Treble Chance
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23 Pts £346.76
22 Pts £124.72
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19 Pts £2.32

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CRICKET



Botham and Fletcher beam like crocuses at a garden party while Willis looks wintry on England's arrival home.

Boycott affair: Batsman retires deeply hurt

By Keith Macklin

The apparently inspired leak of confidential recommendations to end Geoffrey Boycott's contract with Yorkshire have aroused anger among members of the county's general committee.

Arthur Connell, the committee's acting chairman, said yesterday that he was appalled at the leak, which could only create further problems.

The recommendations came from a subcommittee, quietly known as the "in-depth committee", set up under independent chairmanship to look into every aspect of county cricket in Yorkshire, particularly the strained relationship between Yorkshire's most illustrious living batsman and the manager, Ray Illingworth.

The most startling leak is that Boycott should be allowed to leave the county when his contract ends in September. The report is said to lay great emphasis on the damage being caused to the club by the internal feud, especially between Boycott and Illingworth, which culminated towards the end of last season in Boycott being dropped from the team for certain one-day matches.

Measured support for Boycott came from Ranjan Subba Row, manager of the England team who arrived home from their tour of India and Sri Lanka yesterday. "There is certainly no political rift between Geoffrey Boycott and the Test and County Cricket Board", he said at Gatwick Airport.

About Boycott's premature return from India during the fourth Test-match in early January, Illingworth had a public argument with the volatile wicketkeeper, David Bairstow.

Boycott is predictably playing a straight bat, though he is said to be deeply hurt at the suggestion that he should be kicked out of his beloved Yorkshire. At a restaurant dinner on Tuesday he was asked about the alleged proposals and gave a typically terse answer.

"I don't know anything about it and I don't want to know," he said. "I have been advised by Mr Lister, the club secretary, not to say anything so it would be quite wrong of me to go against his wishes. I spoke to the secretary this morning to see what the position was. He said, 'I have deplored the leak and that he had launched an investigation to find out where the leak originated.'"

"Mr Lister advised me not to say anything until further notice. I have done everything by the book. It is not a question of being obstructive."

Boycott, now mustacheless and bearded, always takes the occasion of a press conference to launch a tirade against the county cricket establishment.

The 30-strong general committee is not committed to accepting the proposals. Past upheavals have revealed a strong body of opinion within the general committee that is behind Boycott and any move to dismiss him could be thwarted.

Other proposals made public at a recent preliminary press conference were that the bulk of Yorkshire's county cricket should be played at Headingley, meaning the demise of such venues as Bradford and Sheffield, the appointment of a chief executive and the creation of a 10-man decision-making body within the general committee. All have a degree of controversy about them.

The March 7 meeting looks like being long and stormy. It will not be the first such meeting during the recent history of Yorkshire. Boycott having several times figured in similar situations. There was the much-publicised occasion when a dressing-room poll of players showed a large majority against his captaincy.

GEOFFREY BOYCOTT

"I have done everything by the book. It is not a question of obstruction"

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Ten rebels make a Test stand

The revolt by Pakistan Test players spread yesterday with the wicketkeeper, Wasim Bari, joining the nine who earlier said they would not play under Javed Miandad's captaincy. Majid Khan, spokesman for the rebels, said they would not budge an inch from their stand.

Nur Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board president, said the board would meet on Sunday to discuss the matter. He promised no compromise on principles.

Doubts about retaining first-class cricket at Bradford's Park Avenue ground were removed yesterday when Yorkshire announced plans to develop the site as a leading cricket centre. The county club are to meet Bradford Council with a view to taking over the cricket and football grounds. First-class cricket was first played at Park Avenue in 1881.

Rain washed out the final day of the three-day match between North Island and the Australians in Napier. Less than four hours' play had been possible on the first day, in which the Australians scored 134 for four. The first Test match between New Zealand and Australia starts in Wellington tomorrow.

ROUND-UP MOTOR RALLYING

Finns look favourites

The opening round of the 1982 Rothmans-RAC British Open rally championship promises to be more competitive than both rounds of the world championship held so far this year, with nine internationally-ranked drivers in the entry.

The Minter international rally begins at York tomorrow and ends at the same place on Saturday. First away will be last year's winner, Pentti Aikola (Finland) and his co-driver Paul Short (Britain) in a Ford Escort. Finnish drivers fill the next three seeded start.

Also having his first outing with the new Rothmans team is the reigning British champion, Jimmy McKeay, aged 38, from Lanark. Other leading entries are Per Eklund (Sweden) in a Toyota Celica and the former British national champion, Neil Brockles, aged 38, in a Vauxhall Chevette.

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BASKETBALL

Attacked referee taken to hospital

Zagreb, Feb 24—A Yugoslav basketball player struck a referee here last night during a European Cup Winners' Cup match, leaving the referee with a head injury. The referee, Alexander Popovic, was taken to hospital. The match was between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. The referee was attacked by a Yugoslav player, Belostanski, during a dispute over an alleged foul play.

MARATHON

Grete Waitz in Boston race

Oso, Feb 24—Grete Waitz, of Norway, will add the Boston marathon on April 19 to her programme for this year. That was confirmed yesterday by Jack Waitz, her husband, who is her coach and manager. He said that Grete (pictured right) the unworn queen of marathon racing, would run in the marathon at the European championships in Athens in September.

Shropshire gets Brian Brain

Brian Brain, the former Worcestershire and Gloucestershire pace bowler, will play minor counties cricket for Shropshire this summer. Brain, aged 41, who has turned down an offer to play one-day cricket for Glamorgan, has been signed as a replacement for Vanburn Holder, the former West Indian Test bowler.

Holder has been released by Shropshire because of the new regulation restricting counties to one overseas player.

ROWING

The end of a seven year reign

Lady Margaret Robt Club's seven-year reign as head of the Cambridge Lent came to a sudden end yesterday when Trinity triumphed in the final of the women's eight. The reigning champions, who had won the title for seven years, were defeated by Trinity. The race was a close one, with Trinity leading in the closing stages. The race was held on the River Cam.

One mistake dashes Keble hopes

Keble's chance of topping the 10-year rule of Oxford on the opening day of Oxford Regatta came to grief when their bow caught a crab in the closing stages of the race. Keble had reduced Oxford to less than half a length but that one mistake ended their hopes. The race was held on the River Isis.

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Radio 4

Diversity: The

boats. The subjects are

Briefing Today

Radio 1
10.00 am As Radio 2, 7.00 Mike Read.
11.30 Simon Bates. 1.30 Dove Lee
Service, including 12.30 Newsbeat.
2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright.
4.00 Peter Dinklage. 7.00 The Record
Producers: Glyn Jones. 8.00 David
Isen. 10.00 John Peel. ‡ 12.00
Midnight Close.

World Service.
C World Service can be received

News 7.00 World News, 7.30 Weather
Six Hours: News Summary, 7.59
Waiting, 7.48
World News 8.00 World News, 8.09 Reflections, 8.15 Opera Gallery
John Peel, 9.00 World News, 9.07
Review of the British Press, 9.15 The Work
Day, 9.30 Financial News, 9.35
Ploughman, 10.05 Ploughman
Moon, 10.30 My Word 11.00 World
News 11.08 News About Britain, 11.15 Th
of Thomas Thornley, 11.30
segment, 12.00 Radio Newscast, 12.11
Tenety, 12.45 Sports Roundup, 1.04
World News, 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours
Summary, 1.30 Network UK 1.45
Culture's Years, 2.30 Discovery 3.00 Rad
ature's Years, 2.15 Outlook, 4.00 World
Newscast

World Today:	3.00	World News:	3.00
World Today:	3.00	World News:	3.00
Hourly News Summary:	9.15	World News:	9.15
Weather Matters:	6.20	In the Marketplace:	9.20
World Today:	10.00	World News:	10.00
World Today:	10.25	Book Reviews:	10.25
World News:	10.30	Celestical Connections:	10.30
World Roundup:	10.00	World News:	10.00
Century:	11.15	Merchant Navy:	11.15
Magazine:	11.30	Merridian:	12.00
News:	12.09	News About Britain:	12.15
News:	12.23	The Paradoxical Moon:	1.15
Review of the British Press:	2.09	Review of the British Press:	2.09
Galaxy:	2.30	Magic Now:	3.00
News About Britain:	3.09	News About Britain:	3.15
Business Matters:	4.00	Business Matters:	4.00

BORDER
Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30
ws. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge.

HTV
Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30
Thurs. 3.45-4.15 Square One. 4.20
Merstowdown USA. 5.10 Jobline. 5.20-
5.30 Crossroads. 6.00 News. 6.30
Dickoo Waltz. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale
etc. 10.28 News. 10.30 Scene '82.

HTV CYMRU/WALES
HTV West except: 11.22am-11.37
Gymru. 12.00-12.10pm Mwstl.
5 Fantara for Young Musicians.
5 Sêr. 5.10-5.20 Captain Nemo.
D Y Dydd. 6.15 Report Wales.
0-7.00 Sports Arena. 10.30-11.30
Kinds of Everything.

ULSTER
Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30
achime. 4.20 Here's Boomer. 4.45
ools Challenge: Royal School,
eagh and Rainey Endowed,
gherafelt. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45
nd Evening Ulster. 6.00 Good
ning Ulster. 6.25 Police Six. 6.35
ssroads. 7.00-7.30 Enniskillen
m. 10.35 Bizarre. 11.05 Parents
Teenagers. 11.35 News at
tine. Closedown.

Court of Appeal

separately weighed

In May 1979, Nade was notified by the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service's decision to deport him and notice of deportation was sent to the appellants. Mr. Nade was given 30 days to file an appeal. The appellants appealed against their notice of deportation. Their appeals were heard by the independent consideration was given to them because at all stages the two appellants were treated as one part of the family of Mr. Yau.

An adjudicator dismissed the appeals. He stated that there was no evidence that the notice was affirmed by the appeal tribunal.

The task of the adjudicator and the appeal tribunal was to decide whether the secretary of

ated by Yan Yuk Wah, aged 19, his mother, Cheung Yan, aged 20, and his sister, Yee Yee, aged 19. Fingered for the appeal; Mr Christopher Symons for the Secretary of State.

ORD JUSTICE WALLER said the husband, Mr Fook Yan, given leave to seek the Secretary of State's decision. The husband granted entry certificates to him in 1973 and their leave to enter was made concurrent with Mr Yau's.

Mr Yau's leave to work was as a cook. The husband's proof his employment as a cook and the state's decision was "in accordance with the law or with any other provision of the law in the case"; see section 19 (1) (b) of the 1971 Act.

The husband considered that the decision was not in accordance with the rules he must allow the appeal. It was not to remedy deficiencies in the secretary of state's decision.

The conclusion that the secretary of state did not give separate consideration to Mr Yau's appeal and did not weigh in relation to each matter for and against deportation.

The secretary of state never

'Legal manoeuvring'

Dawes v Dawes the children left the matrimonial

because of the husband's refusal to go and was to leave the wife's home in consequence of old person's flat. The wife commenced divorce proceedings in the county court, and on a full hearing was granted an order that the husband had to leave the matrimonial home. The wife then told the same solicitors who had been acting for the husband, by letter, that she wanted to determine the wife's case on behalf of his mother, and applied to the county court on her behalf to exclude the wife from the property and for possession of it. That was the maneuvering which brought the decision into disrepute. The court was surprised that a grandmother could be so busy in such a way.

The deputy judge had ordered the wife not to remain in or return to the matrimonial home. The wife's mother then made. The court would set that order and the mother said that order and the mother said be ordered to leave the premises and not to return until further notice. Justice Dunn and Sir George Shaw agreed.

Solicitors: Horne, Engall & Egan, Egham. E & D Brook, Staines.

of the secretary of state.

Accordingly, the appeal should be dismissed. The case should be sent back to the appeal tribunal with directions to allow the appeal against the order.

Lord Justice Kerr and Sir George Byles dissented.

Solicitors: Olford Olford & Bell, Wisbech; Treasury Solicitor.

Adoption notice to other side

In re W (a Minor)

Where a local authority of its own motion of its own motion intended to ask the court for directions for the placement of the child with long-term foster parents with a view to adoption and the originating summons had not been amended to show that intention, the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Wood) said on February 23 that it was advisable for notice to be given, in good time, to the defendant mother's solicitors so that they might not be taken completely by surprise. In short, more, it enabled them to seek some other order or to file further evidence.

